DAILY EXPRESS

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 £2

JENRICK JOINS REFORM WITH BLAST AT 'ROTTEN' TORIES

Nigel Farage welcomes Robert Jenrick to Reform yesterday. Inset, Kemi Badenoch

But Kemi defiant over sacking, saying 'bad people are leaving my party'

TURN TO PAGE 4

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Picture: KIN CHEUNG/AP

The Princess of Wales with England's rugby team and receiving a signed shirt from captain Zoe Stratford

Our English Roses

Catherine the great hostess as she salutes World Cup winners

BY **REBECCA RUSSELL** Deputy Royal Editor

THE Princess of Wales made sure England's World Cup-winning rugby women's team had a grand day out at Windsor Castle – despite their bus breaking down on the way.

The reception yesterday was to congratulate the players on their glorious success at Twickenham in September.

They were due to have a tour of the castle but this had to be cancelled due to the transport hiccup. However, Catherine ensured they made fantastic memories.

Inspired

Beaming Catherine, 44, channelled the team's Red Roses nickname as she hosted as patron of the Rugby Football Union, sporting a stunning scarlet suit with matching shoes.

She told the nation's heroes: "It's really nice to mark the beginning of the year with a celebration.

"You've really inspired a new generation, one that perhaps might not have thought rugby was for them." Asked if her daughter Princess Charlotte, 10, played the game, Catherine replied: "Charlotte is playing rugby but at home with the family. She isn't yet at school. Louis is playing touch rugby and it's such a great game. They shouldn't necessarily need to push boys and girls in particular sports too early.

"Obviously as they get physically stronger... George now, if we play at home, I do not want to get tackled by George!"

The England players, who wore black suits and their winner's medals, looked delighted to be there after their coach travails, and captain Zoe Stratford presented the princess with a signed squad jersey and other goodies. Catherine also got to see the gold World Cup trophy. The group then had their photo taken with the princess.

They were led by head coach John Mitchell, who with players including star turn Ellie Kildunne, received OBEs and MBEs in the New Year's Honours after the 33-13 cup-clinching victory over Canada.

Catherine became patron of the RFU in 2022 after Prince Harry had to give up the position as part of "Megxit".

Prince William mucks in on a farm

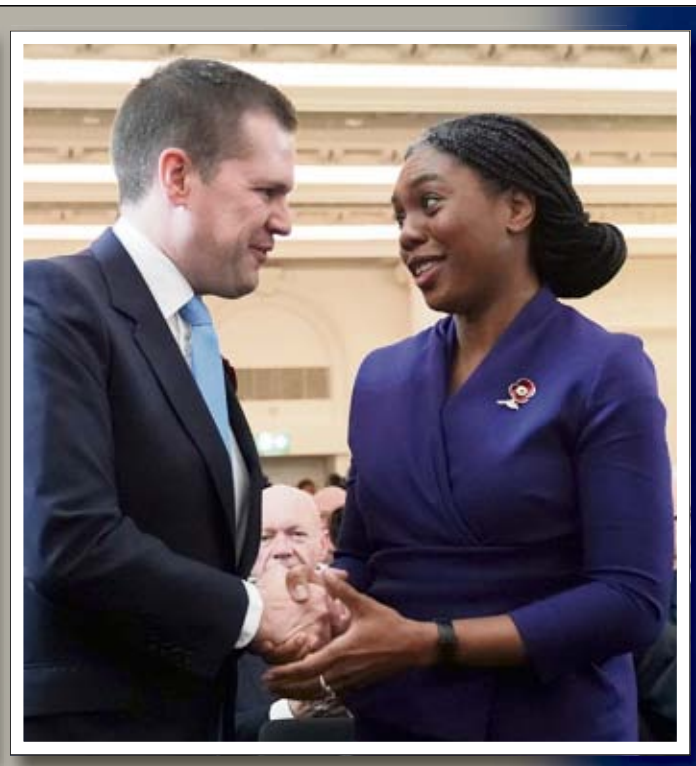
Support

Meanwhile, her husband Prince William was mucking in with chores on a family-run farm in Herefordshire yesterday.

The Prince of Wales, patron of mental health charity We Are Farming Minds, spent time learning about the importance of support within the farming community.

After enjoying a mug of hot local cider with his hosts, William, 43, pruned apple trees, helped to build new fencing and was mobbed by a herd of hungry sheep.

DID JENRICK JUMP SHIP OR DID



Nigel Farage, far right, welcomes Tory defector Robert Jenrick to Reform UK yesterday. Left, footage of Kemi Badenoch revealing she had fired Mr Jenrick and he shakes her hand as she becomes Tory party boss in 2024

‘With the two main parties failing Britain, Nigel was all too often a lone voice of common sense’

BY **MARTYN BROWN**
Political Editor

ROBERT Jenrick has dramatically defected to Reform UK after being sacked by Kemi Badenoch, as the battle for the Right of British politics exploded into open warfare.

Mr Jenrick unleashed excoriating attacks on Tories he had left behind as he joined his new party boss Nigel Farage yesterday, praising his “lone voice of common sense”.

The one-time Housing Secretary claimed that the Conservative Party was “rotten” – and he urged more MPs to jump ship.

In a scathing verdict on the party, which he declared had “failed so badly”, Mr Jenrick said the Tories “are not sorry” about “mistakes” they made while in government.

He also unleashed a savage assault on ex-colleagues including Sir Mel Stride and Dame Priti Patel.

But Mrs Badenoch passed her own withering judgment on the man she had just dismissed as Shadow Justice Secretary, saying he was “no longer my problem”.

The Tory leader said that his departure was a “good day” for the Conservatives. She revealed that Mr Jenrick told her just a few days ago that he had no plans to defect, while “clearly plotting to do so”.

She added: “Actually, what I see is Robert Jenrick is no longer my problem, he is now Nigel Farage’s problem. It is not a blow to lose someone who lies to his colleagues.

“This has been a good day...bad people are leaving my party.”

Mr Jenrick – her former leadership rival – becomes Reform’s sixth MP and is the most high-profile Tory yet to switch sides.

His explosive remarks came hours after Mrs Badenoch ruthlessly kicked him out following the discovery of “irrefutable evidence” he was plotting to defect. She accused him of planning to “torch” the Conservative Party “in a way designed to be as damaging as possible”.

It is understood the Tories had found a copy of Mr Jenrick’s proposed resignation letter after it was left “lying around”.

But the Newark MP’s retort at a press conference alongside Mr Farage was blistering, even by Westminster standards.

He stormed: “I can’t kid myself any more. The [Tory] party hasn’t changed and it won’t. The bulk of the party don’t get it. Don’t have the stomach for the radical change this country needs.”

Mr Jenrick also claimed the Tories were “not sorry” for errors they committed in government – and he warned: “Britain is broken.

“I can’t in good conscience stick with a party that’s failed so badly, that isn’t sorry and hasn’t changed, that I know in my heart won’t – can’t – deliver what’s needed.”

In an impassioned defence of his switch of allegiance, Mr Jenrick said: “If we don’t get the next government right, Britain will likely slip beyond the point of repair.”

He added about Mr Farage: “I don’t agree with everything he’s ever said, and he definitely won’t have agreed with everything I’ve ever said.

“But in retrospect, I see that in this period when the two main parties were failing Britain, Nigel was all too often a lone voice of common sense.”

He said he would not resign to force a by-election for his seat.

Drama

The announcement marked the culmination of a day of high drama and confusion that might come to dictate the shape of politics in Britain for years to come.

Mr Farage boasted that Mr Jenrick had been “handed to me on a plate” by Mrs Badenoch as a result of the dramatic sacking. He

Reform leader Nigel Farage yesterday

EXPRESS VOTE

Will Robert Jenrick’s defection from the Tories strengthen Reform?

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NO: 0901 133 4441
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Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
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KEMI KICK HIM OVERBOARD?

Picture: HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP

also teased that other senior Tories were ready to follow suit – as is an apparently well-known Labour figure, "next week".

In a sign of his soaring confidence, the Reform chief gave MPs who may be thinking of joining his party a strict deadline of the local, Welsh and Scottish elections on May 7 to act.

But he slammed the door shut on Boris Johnson, saying that the former Tory Prime Minister would not be welcomed as a member if he wanted to join.

Mr Farage described Mr Jenrick's defection as a "big day in the realignment of the genuine centre-Right of this country". Mrs Badenoch earlier revealed in a video post that she had sacked him from her Shadow Cabinet, removed the Tory whip and suspended his party membership.

She added: "I was presented with clear, irrefutable evidence that he was plotting in secret to defect in a way designed to be as damaging as possible to his Shadow Cabinet colleagues and the wider Conservative Party.

"I've got to the point where I'm really worried about the people in the party whose lives and careers I have responsibility for."

And she warned potential defectors: "The people who don't want to be in the party can go." Mrs Badenoch has promoted West Suffolk MP Nick Timothy, a former joint Chief of Staff to then-PM Theresa May, to replace Mr Jenrick.

Toxic

The day of shock follows hard on the heels of ex-Tory Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi joining Reform.

Earlier yesterday, Sir Keir Starmer queried why it had taken Mrs Badenoch "so long" to boot out Mr Jenrick.

The Prime Minister accused him of having made "toxic comments to try and divide our country". Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats claimed that Mr Jenrick had "an industrial-grade brass neck" to complain about the state of the nation "when it was him and his Conservative cronies who did such damage to our country and to trust and faith in politics".

The party's deputy leader Daisy Cooper hit out: "Reform and the Conservatives are two sides of the same coin."

Ms Cooper added: "Right across the country it is the Liberal Democrats who are leading the fight to defeat them."

OPINION: PAGE 12

SKETCH

DAVID WILLIAMSON
Chief Political Commentator

IT was standing room only by the time the last hacks crowded into the sweltering room at Reform UK's headquarters where Nigel Farage holds press conferences.

His gifts as a showman are legendary, and the sense of drama was off the charts.

Kemi Badenoch had sacked Robert Jenrick as Shadow Justice Secretary because he was allegedly planning to defect. Was this the moment when one of the most ambitious men in British politics would pledge his allegiance to Reform UK?

Mr Farage said he had not invited us for such an announcement but to condemn delays to local elections and announce his intention to seek a judicial review.

He added: "I'm going to save that for a couple of days because lots of other things appear to have happened this morning."

The Reform leader was hiking up the suspense. Yes, he said, he had been talking to Mr Jenrick for some months – as he had been talking to "many, many other senior Conservative figures and, incidentally, some Labour ones as well".

Churchill

He added: "There will be a Labour defection next week, which you'll all be invited to."

He then accused Mrs Badenoch of "jumping the gun" by sacking Mr Jenrick, saying he wasn't going to join any time soon and maybe not at all.

"I just want to say thank you to Kemi Badenoch," he continued, for handing him a late Christmas present.

On that note, he said: "I will welcome Robert Jenrick into this room and into Reform UK."

Seconds ticked by. Was he having second thoughts? After 1min 43sec the Honourable Member for Newark appeared and the world knew that Reform had a sixth MP.

Mr Jenrick then launched into a speech in which he described why he was quitting the party of Churchill. Most of the Westminster party, he explained, "lost its way", adding: "The principles were betrayed because a critical mass don't believe in those principles at all."

He went on: "Most of the Conservative Party in Westminster are in denial or, worse, they are being dishonest about what the party has done."

Arguing that Mr Farage had made the right calls on issues such as the small boats crisis, he said: "They laughed at him. They're not laughing now."

Next week, if Mr Farage is right, a well-known Labour figure will be joining the Reform tribe.

The show will go on.

Labour peer Lord Falconer

Lords extend debate time for assisted dying bill

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**

PEERS will sit late in the House of Lords today to allow more time to debate the assisted dying bill.

Supporters hope extending debates will allow members to plough through more than 1,000 amendments – 617 of them put by just seven peers – and reach a third reading.

Announcing the extra time, Lord Falconer said peers had "strongly expressed the view that it would be wrong and would significantly damage the reputation of this House if we failed to reach conclusions on the bill".

He also warned against filibustering.

Lord Falconer said: "Following the passing of my motion, the chief whip has indicated to me that, the view of the House permitting, we can sit until 5.30pm on this Friday, and 6pm on remaining Fridays to finish debate.

Self-restraint

"This may not be necessary if we make sufficient progress before then, which we can do so by working together and exercising self-restraint."

Sarah Wootton, chief executive of campaign group Dignity in Dying, said the decision to extend Friday sittings "reflects the clear will of the House to have the time needed to make progress on the bill".

She added: "As long-standing bill opponent Baroness Butler-Sloss herself acknowledged, 'the reputation of this House is at stake' and 'at the end of the day, we have to get it through'.

"The way forward is clear, and the time for continued, thorough scrutiny is now available.

"There are no more excuses for progress to be blocked by half a dozen unelected peers.

"Their colleagues in the elected Chamber, and the public they serve, are watching."

OPINION: PAGE 12

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON, CHRISTIAN CALGIE** and **MICHAEL KNOWLES**

KEMI Badenoch erased any doubts she possesses the steely ruthlessness Conservatives expect in their leaders.

At 11.06am she stunned her party and the rest of Westminster with the announcement she had sacked her former leadership rival Robert Jenrick as Shadow Justice Secretary because he was plotting to defect.

This was a banishment, the news delivered in a bad-tempered phone call by her chief whip, and concluding with Mr Jenrick slamming down the phone after denying all allegations.

He was stripped of the whip, meaning he is not allowed to sit as a Conservative MP, and his membership of the party has been suspended.

This sends out a brutal message to any of Mrs Badenoch's MPs flirting with defection – if they are rumbled, they will be out.

It was timed to coincide with a Reform UK press conference, where former Tory minister Lord Offord was named Reform's Scottish leader. There, Nigel Farage confirmed he had talked with Mr Jenrick and a "number of very senior Conservatives".

Rumours swirled as to why Mrs Badenoch swooped at that moment.

Tory sources say Mr Jenrick was known to be talking to Reform figures and even left papers "lying around" that got back to the Conservative leadership.

These provided "irrefutable" proof that he was planning to defect – and to time the announcement "to make it as painful as possible". The decision was taken to "lance the boil" because the "evidence was overwhelming".

One Shadow Cabinet member claimed Mr Jenrick had grown "overwhelmed and consumed by ambition", especially after Mrs Badenoch saw her popularity rise. It is said a dossier of evidence against him includes "rude" criticisms of his Shadow Cabinet colleagues.

Conservative Party chairman Kevin Hollinrake took to the airwaves to make it clear there was no way back for Mr Jenrick.

"We're very clear on that," he said.

But former Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey told our Daily Expresso podcast she "would have advised Mrs Badenoch not to have done this" and warned against setting "something in train that you can't handle".

Then, in a hot room in Millbank Tower, Mr Jenrick appeared in a thunderclap moment in British politics.

Adding one final dose of nail-biting jeopardy, Mr Farage introduced him, but for nearly two minutes the party's latest MP failed to walk through the door, once again sending heart rates in Westminster racing.

Had he pulled off the most astonishing double bluff of all time? Had Kemi and Robert concocted this spat to humiliate Reform? Far from it, he eventually arrived on stage, much to Mr Farage's audible relief. It was later claimed the Newark MP was being forced to hurriedly rewrite parts of his speech after Tory HQ leaked excerpts just minutes before he was meant to deliver it.

Finally taking to the lectern, Mr Jenrick announced: "It's time for the truth… Britain is in decline." He proceeded to urge true patriots to abandon the Conservative Party and join him in making Mr Farage prime minister.

Esther McVey says sacking was a risk

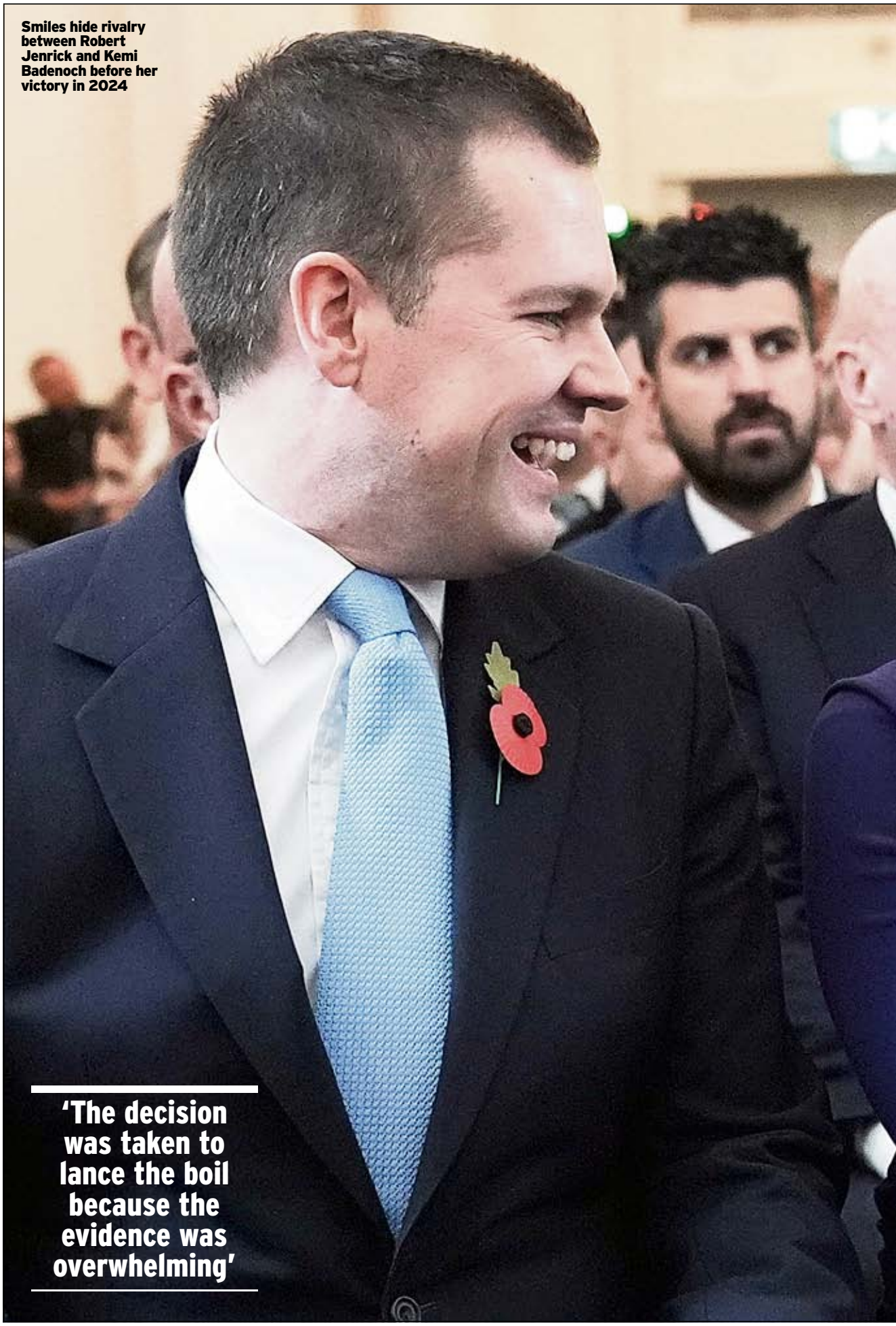
Mr Jenrick is now outside the Tory fold and Mrs Badenoch has turned a rival into a fully fledged opponent. He is one of the most effective campaigners on social media and if he brings his talents to Reform he will be out for revenge. He will sit on the Reform UK bench in the Commons, and this is exactly the boost that Mr Farage needs to signal he is truly on the way to forming the next government.

Mr Jenrick possesses weapons-grade ambition and he would not join a party without it being on course to take power at the next election.

Up until now, only one sitting Conservative MP has joined Reform. It was a blow for Mrs Badenoch to lose Danny Kruger, a serious and independent-minded deep thinker who found himself out of step with her party. But if Mr Jenrick had caught her on the hop with the announcement he wanted Mr Farage to be PM, this would have done much more harm.

It would have been a vote of no confidence in her leadership and in the potential of the Tories to get back on track in time for the election.

The Conservatives' big fear will be that others will follow and the Reform group will expand rapidly. Mrs Badenoch's team will want to ensure Mr Jenrick's closest parliamentary



Smiles hide rivalry between Robert Jenrick and Kemi Badenoch before her victory in 2024

'The decision was taken to lance the boil because the evidence was overwhelming'

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Kemi sacked her most obvious rival for leadership ...now she can prepare for her next battle

allies do not jump ship. However, wavering MPs have now been put on notice by Mr Farage, who revealed he will be accepting no more defections after the local elections on May 7.

The next general election is on course to be a ferocious competition between the Tories and Reform about who should replace Labour.

This will be especially bitter if Conservatives regard senior Reform figures as traitors.

Many Right-wingers will worry a fight to the electoral death between the two parties is the last thing the nation needs – and will let the most Left-wing government in history hold power. There will be talk about Labour forming a coalition with the Liberal Democrats and the Greens.

'Many liberal Tories would likely welcome the chance to take the gloves off when dealing with Reform'

Some Tories want a pre-election pact to avoid splitting the Right.

But many liberals in the party would likely welcome the chance to take the gloves off when dealing with Reform. They will tell centrist voters who fear a Farage government that a vote for Mrs Badenoch's party is the best way to stop Reform.

They will argue the insurgent party would frighten the markets and plunge the UK into yet more chaos.

There are risks to Reform by welcoming Conservatives into the fold.

Labour will tell voters that Reform MPs are "teal Tories" – just another party dominated by City types who do not share their values.

Right now, Mrs Badenoch's priority will be steadying the ship and stopping MPs and grassroots members from joining Mr Farage's movement. There is a silver lining for her. She no longer needs to worry about the possibility of Mr Jenrick staging a leadership bid in the wake of the May elections – which are expected to be dire for her party.

She has sacked her most obvious rival for the leadership and can now prepare for the next battle.

Labour will be thrilled at the prospect of civil war on the Right. For a few moments at least, it takes attention off threats to Keir Starmer's own job. He can claim the Tories have not changed and are addicted to plotting.

But if Labour remains behind Reform and Conservatives in the polls, it may not be long before he faces a putsch of his own.

Growth...but it's 'barely above zero'

BY **MARTYN BROWN**

RACHEL Reeves was urged to take action as data showed that growth was "barely above zero" in the past year.

The economy grew by a better-than-expected 0.3% in November, after a dip in October and largely before the Budget on November 26, when the Chancellor revealed another barrage of taxes.

The rebound included Jaguar Land Rover production resuming after a cyber attack.

The Treasury said there was more to do "driving growth, delivering the consolidation to provide stability, keeping inflation low and stable, tackling the cost of living and bringing our borrowing costs down".

Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride claimed the Budget would still leave "our economy weaker, with higher taxes stifling growth".

Julian Jessop, from the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: "The economy still contracted in five of the eight months to November, leaving trend growth barely above zero."

UK is 'at risk' by relying on China trade

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

BRITAIN'S reliance on China puts our energy security at risk and endangers 90,000 jobs, according to a report.

There are fears the car industry and key battery sector will be jeopardised if Beijing disrupts supply.

Analysis also warns rolling out solar energy could take a hit and force the UK to import £1.5billion of extra gas.

The Institute for Public Policy Research says a year's battery parts halt could "wipe out production of over 580,000 electric vehicles".

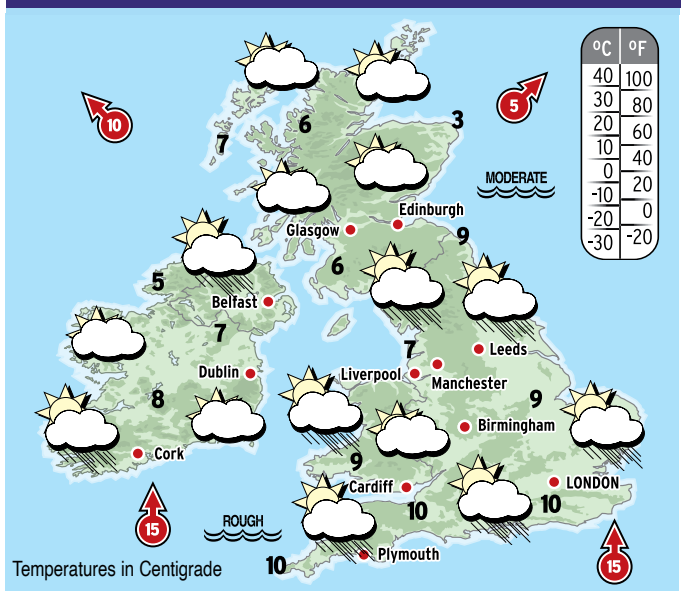
The think tank calls for "secure clean energy supply chains" but Reform said the report highlighted the risk posed by "net stupid zero".

The IPPR said 80% to 90% of "global refining for critical minerals is controlled by China".

A government spokesman said: "Thanks to industrial and critical minerals strategies we're backing our automotive and clean-energy sectors to grow, cutting dependency on imports and protecting British jobs."

DX1ST

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Misty morning, cloudy evening

North West: A bright and dry day, but rather cloudy at times. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Northern Ireland: Bright with spells of sunshine, but also light showers. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

Wales: Clouds and drizzle initially. Sun peeks before wet spells resume. Breezy with cool gusts. High 9C (48F).

Midlands: Mist early, clearing to sunny spells. Gentle breeze, becoming cooler towards evening. High 9C (48F).

North East/Yorks: The chance of an isolated shower at first, but sunny spells too. Light winds. High 7C (45F).

Scotland: Cloudy with drizzle early on. Brightening later. Light winds, turning milder. High 6C (43F).

East Anglia: Mainly cloudy with little sunshine, but it will stay dry. Gentle southerly winds. High 9C (48F).

London/South East: Cloudy with showers at times, bright spells later. Breezy, mild conditions expected. High 10C (50F).

South: Cloudy with light rain for a time. Sunshine and showers later. Moderate northerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South West: Unsettled with the chance of showers, mainly later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: The chance of an isolated shower at first, but sunny spells too. Fresh westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Rough.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect mild conditions with sunny spells and occasional showers. Winds light to moderate, temperatures cool, improving later.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	SAT		SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU	
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max
London	5	10	6	9	5	10	4	9	3	8	2	7
Belfast	4	7	5	7	4	8	4	7	3	7	4	6
Birmingham	4	9	5	8	4	8	4	8	3	7	2	6
Cardiff	4	9	4	8	5	9	5	9	3	8	3	7
Glasgow	3	8	4	7	4	8	4	8	3	8	3	7
Manchester	4	9	5	8	5	8	5	8	3	8	3	6
Newcastle	4	7	4	6	4	6	4	7	3	7	2	6
Norwich	5	9	4	8	4	8	3	8	2	7	2	6
Plymouth	6	10	6	9	7	10	7	10	5	9	5	9

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	5.5	0.12	4	7
Aberporth	1.2	0.02	2	8
Alnwick	3.9	0.00	2	8
Belfast	6.3	0.02	2	6
Birmingham	0.0	0.29	4	7
B'mouth	0.0	0.86	7	10
Bristol	0.0	0.78	6	8
Cardiff	0.0	0.35	5	8
Durham	2.7	0.00	1	6
Edinburgh	5.4	0.02	5	7
Glasgow	1.9	0.36	5	6
Hull	0.1	0.08	2	6
Ipswich	0.0	0.28	7	8
Leeds	1.1	0.03	0	5
Lincoln	0.0	0.31	3	7
London	0.0	0.52	7	9
Manchester	0.4	0.00	3	6
Oxford	0.0	0.69	6	8
S'hampton	0.0	0.81	8	10
St Andrews	5.8	0.09	4	7

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 6.58am, sets: 1.30pm
SUN rises London: 7.58am, sets: 4.22pm
Manchester rises: 8.16am, sets: 4.21pm

New Moon
18 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(-), (12.16pm)
Liverpool	(9.38am), (10.05pm)
Greenock	(11.03am), (11.10pm)
Dover	(9.34am), (10.00pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Wednesday)
Warmest: Isles Of Scilly, 11c (51f).
Coldest: Benson, -6c (21f).
Wettest: Port Ellen, 0.59ins.
Sunniest: Tibenham Airfield, 7.2hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.31pm-8.34am
Birmingham	4.25pm-8.08am
Bristol	4.32pm-8.07am
Glasgow	4.17pm-8.35am
London	4.22pm-7.57am
Manchester	4.21pm-8.15am
Newcastle	4.11pm-8.19am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Fair	9C/48F	Amsterdam	Cloudy	9C/48F
Brussels	Fair	11C/52F	Brussels	Fair	11C/52F
Dublin	Cloudy	8C/46F	Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Fair	10C/50F	Frankfurt	Cloudy	5C/41F
Geneva	Sunny	8C/46F	Geneva	Cloudy	7C/45F
Lisbon	Thunder	13C/55F	Lisbon	Showers	12C/54F
Madrid	Rain	10C/50F	Madrid	Rain	8C/46F
Paris	Cloudy	11C/52F	Paris	Cloudy	11C/52F
Rome	Fair	16C/61F	Rome	Sunny	16C/61F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Drizzle	9	48	Hong Kong	Sunny	22	72	New York	Cloudy	10	50
Athens	Sunny	15	59	Istanbul	Fair	11	52	Nice	Sunny	14	57
Barcelona	Sunny	13	55	Jersey	Rain	9	48	Nicosia	Sunny	14	57
Berlin	Cloudy	4	39	Larnaca	Sunny	16	61	Perth	Sunny	33	91
Budapest	Fog	-1	30	Las Palmas	Cloudy	19	66	Prague	Rain	4	39
Cairo	Fair	17	63	Los Angeles	Sunny	25	77	Singapore	Fair	28	82
Cape Town	-	22	72	Luxor	Sunny	18	64	Stockholm	Cloudy	2	36
Casablanca	Fair	17	63	Malaga	Sunny	14	57	Sydney	Fair	24	75
Corfu	Fair	12	54	Mallorca	Fair	16	61	Tel Aviv	Fair	17	63
Dublin	Sunny	8	46	Malta	Fair	18	64	Tenerife	Sunny	20	68
Dubrovnik	Cloudy	14	57	Melbourne	Fair	20	68	Toronto	Cloudy	4	39
Faro	Cloudy	14	57	Miami	Cloudy	23	73	Tunis	Sunny	17	63
Florence	Shwrs	12	54	Moscow	Snow	-8	18	Venice	Cloudy	8	46
Gibraltar	Sunny	14	57	Nairobi	Sunny	24	75	Vienna	Mist	-2	28
Guernsey	Rain	10	50	New Delhi	Sunny	13	55	Warsaw	Cloudy	0	32

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Jewish fan ban police boss 'gagged officers'

'Outrageous chief constable has not resigned'

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

EMBATTLED police chief Craig Guildford sensationally tried to gag his own officers from discussing the scandal engulfing their force.

His colleagues in the West Midlands were instructed to keep quiet about their boss's bungled handling of the banning of Israeli away fans from an Aston Villa against Maccabi Tel Aviv football match.

If questioned, an email to staff told them to say: "It would be inappropriate and unprofessional to discuss the future of anyone else within the organisation.

"As a serving member of WMP, my focus, alongside colleagues, is on doing everything possible to keep the people of the West Midlands safe and prevent crime."

The revelation comes after Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said she had lost confidence in Chief Constable Guildford after falsified intelligence led to the fan ban in November.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting also weighed in, saying: "I find it even more extraordinary that having lost the confidence of the Home Secretary, who is also one of his local MPs, [he has] still not resigned. I just find that absolutely outrageous. We don't expect perfection. We know people make mistakes. But when they do, we expect honesty and accountability. We haven't seen that in this case. That's why he should go and do the right thing."

A senior police source added of Mr Guildford: "We are all completely baffled. He is a dead man walking, he needs to go. There is agreement across the political sphere and the policing sphere. He should carry the can. If he doesn't he will drag us all down."

Ms Mahmood said a watchdog report found WMP "overstated the threat posed by the Maccabi Tel Aviv fans" but underplayed the risk posed by Islamist mobs in Birmingham.

Picture: JACOB KING/PA

Van carrying quote from Mahmood passes the force's HQ. Inset, Mr Guildford

SCHOOL IN MP PROBE

A SCHOOL is being inspected by a watchdog after claims it may have been intimidated into cancelling a visit from a local MP who is Jewish.

Labour's Damien Egan was reportedly prevented from visiting Bristol Brunel Academy after pro-Palestinian activists intervened.

Ofsted chief inspector Sir Martyn Oliver said: "I am troubled by the message this sends to children."

Cabot Learning Federation, which runs the school, has rescheduled the visit. PM Keir Starmer said the case was "very concerning".

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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OPINION **12** TV **39** LETTERS **44** STARS **46** CITY **49** SPORT **51** **PLUS** PUZZLES PULLOUT

British 'spy' kicked out by Russians

BY **KATIE HARRIS**

RUSSIA has expelled a British diplomat after accusing him of spying.

Moscow's foreign ministry said yesterday that it had received information "regarding the affiliation of a diplomatic employee at the embassy with the British secret service".

He was named as Gareth Samuel Davies, a second secretary.

The Foreign Office called the claims "malicious and baseless".

The Russian ministry had summoned British chargé d'affaires Danae Dholakia to lodge a "strong protest" and inform her the diplomat was being expelled.

It added that Moscow would not "tolerate the activities of undeclared British intelligence officers in Russia".

Officials said he must leave the country within two weeks.

Cabinet minister Wes Streeting accused the Kremlin of "lying", and a spokesman for the Foreign Office added that the UK is "carefully considering" its response.

Angel's new role is part-time

Rayner gets approval to be speaker

BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**

ANGELA Rayner has been given approval to take up a second job after her departure from government amid a tax scandal.

The Prime Minister's independent adviser on ministerial standards has approved a bid by the ex-Deputy PM to work for Chartwell Speakers.

The last high-profile politician to join it was former Prime Minister Liz Truss. Theresa May and Boris Johnson have earned hundreds of thousands from speaking since leaving office.

Ms Rayner's application said she would speak "at one event for a pensions insurance specialist and then occasionally at private events".

She is also writing a memoir due this year.

Ellen Roome is fighting for answers over her son Jools' death, along with the parents of, left from top, Maia, Isaac and Archie

TikTok torment of tragic kids' grieving families

BY **SOPHIE HUSKISSON**

GRIEVING mum Ellen Roome says her beloved son is looking down on her with pride as she fights for answers over his death.

She believes Jools Sweeney, 14, died in an online challenge, and is part of a group suing social media site TikTok for wrongful death.

But the US-based firm says it cannot release data belonging to Jools or the other children under UK law.

Jools, along with Isaac Kenevan, 13, Archie Battersbee, 12, Maia Walsh, 13, and Noah Gibson, 11, died while attempting the "blackout challenge".

The viral challenge offered social media approval in return for performing dangerous acts on camera.

Ellen, who was made an MBE last month for her tireless campaigning, said: "I think this has always been about trying to get answers for my son, but it's become a bigger picture.

"Now I've met these other parents, it has become a bigger picture about making a difference for children all over the world. I think Jools would be looking down very proud."

She added: "It's ridiculous that we've got to go across the pond to try to sue for our children's data. It's crazy, but the English system isn't set up to be able to sue properly." Speaking about TikTok, where users share short video clips, Ms Roome said: "They have no morals. They don't seem interested in us as parents.

Draining

"If they had nothing to hide, why would they not just say: 'Here you go, here's your child's social media data.' "

Jools was found unconscious in his bedroom in Cheltenham, Glos, in April 2022. An inquest found he took his own life but the coroner said it was unlikely he intended to do so. Ms Roome, who has been battling since 2024 to get answers about her son's death, said: "It's draining. As parents, we just want answers as to why our children aren't here, and we shouldn't have to fight so hard."

Maia was found dead at her home in Hertfordshire – just short of her 14th birthday – in October 2022.

Isaac's mum Lisa found her son on the bathroom floor of their home in Basildon, Essex, in March 2022. Archie, from Southend, Essex, was found unconscious by his mum, Hollie Dance. He spent four months in hospital before treatment was stopped following a court battle and died in August 2022.

And this month, the four original families who brought the lawsuit were joined by the mum of Noah, whose story has not been reported publicly.

TikTok, owned by Chinese parent company Bytedance and incorporated in Delaware, insists the challenge has been blocked on its site since 2020.

Years

Today, in a court in Delaware, TikTok will try to get the case thrown out, claiming it should have been brought in the UK. If unsuccessful, the lawsuit will proceed to the discovery stage, but it could take years.

A spokesman said: "We strictly prohibit content that promotes or encourages dangerous behaviour. We remove 99% that's found to break these rules before it is reported to us.

"As a company, we comply with the UK's strict data protection laws."

Meanwhile, Baroness Beeban Kidron has tabled an amendment to the UK's Crime and Policing Bill, demanding data preservation be made automatic upon a child's death, a campaign being fought by Mr Roome.

STREETING LEANS TOWARDS U-16 MEDIA BAN

THE Health Secretary has hinted he backs an under-16s social media ban.

Wes Streeting has commissioned Department of Health officials to examine the impact of a ban already implemented in Australia.

And asked whether he supported a ban here, he said: "I'm certainly in favour of action in this area."

Mr Streeting explained: "I really worry about the impact that social media is having on the health, the wellbeing, the education, the learning and the life chances of young people,

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

whether that's the impact of doom-scrolling on cognition and brain development, whether that's the fact that school playground bullies now get to follow kids home and bully them in their bedrooms through their screens." But he acknowledged opponents of a ban had highlighted some benefits of social media.

Tory Party leader Kemi Badenoch has said her government would ban social media for under-16s.

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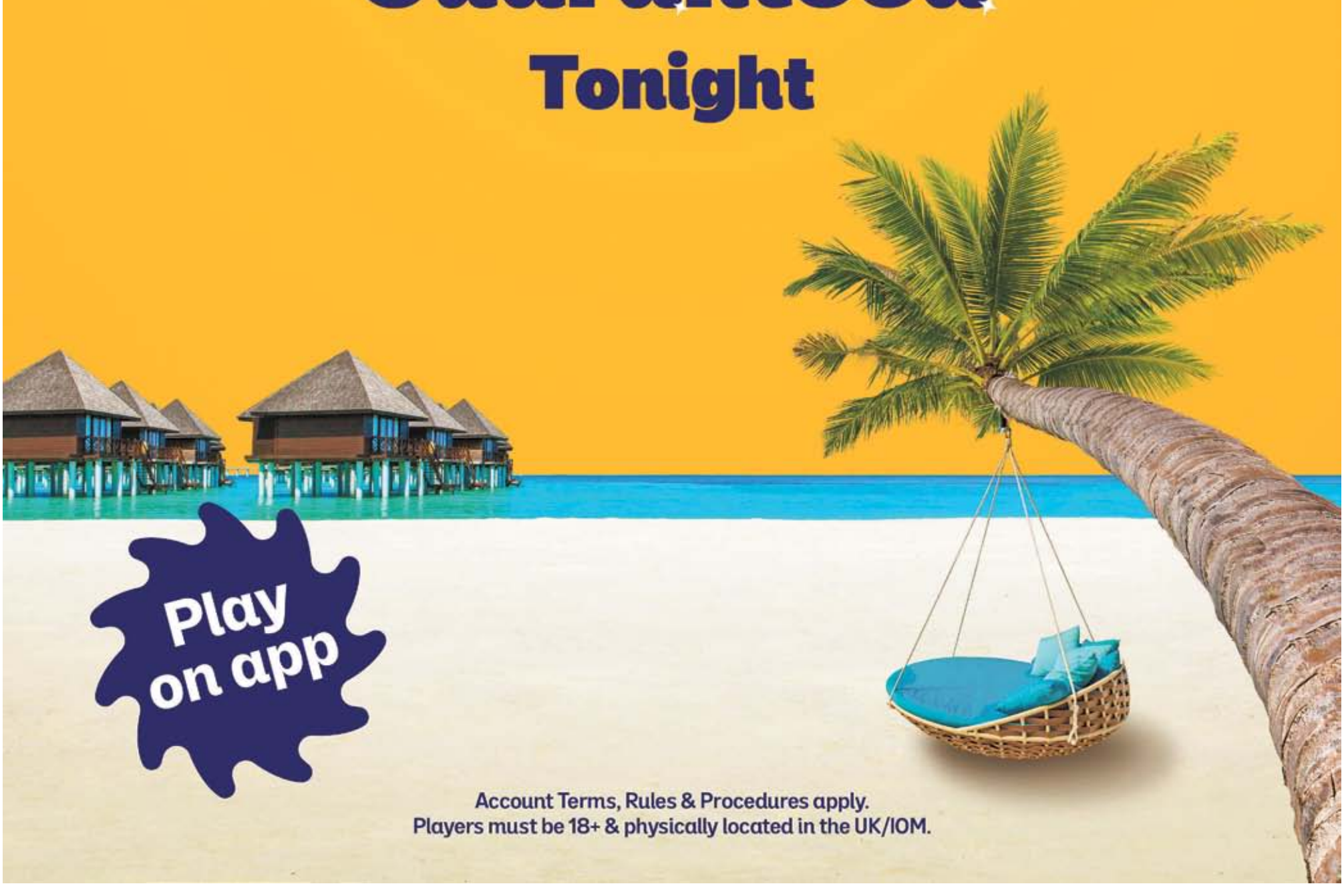

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Two-bunch buy a telltale sign

Racy Ascot romps home as unfaithful epicentre

BY **ISOBEL WILLIAMS**

AFFLUENT racing town Ascot has been named the nation's most unfaithful place, adultery data says.

Some 6.72% of the population are said to have had an affair over the past year, with a florist revealing that men regularly buy two bunches of flowers for Valentine's Day.

And it is wealth that is the main reason for cheating in the Berkshire town, said a solicitor, with bad behaviour getting even worse when the famous Royal Ascot races are on each June, locals added.

It was found to be Britain's cheating capital according to data from adultery website IllicitEncounters.com.

Michelle Merricks, 48, a freelance florist, said: "On Valentine's Day lots of people come in and get two bouquets. One for the wife and one for someone else. We have also had a few apology bouquets. Ascot is full of loads of wealthy people so maybe that is why."

Meanwhile, solicitor Amanda Phillips-Wylds, 43, added: "I do see infidelity more. It is just the lifestyle and level of disposable income."

Freddie Mercury's 'secret' daughter dead at age 48

Bibi 'now with her beloved and loving father' after cancer battle

Freddie on stage and, inset, with his friend Mary Austin who knew about his daughter

BY **AMY DENMAN**

FREDDIE Mercury's secret daughter, who was revealed in a bombshell book last year, has died at the age of 48.

The woman, known only as B, was fathered by the Queen singer during an affair in 1976, according to music journalist Lesley-Ann Jones who interviewed her for the biography.

The love child's real name and identity were never made public.

Months on from the revelation, B's family has confirmed she died peacefully after a long battle with chordoma, a rare spinal cancer, leaving two sons aged nine and seven.

She was 48, three years older than her dad was when he died in 1991.

A statement from her widower, Thomas, said: "B is now with her beloved and loving father in the world of thoughts. Her ashes were scattered to the wind over the Alps." Lesley-Ann said B had been very ill for the four years she knew her. She said: "I am devastated by the loss of this woman who became my close friend, who came to me with a selfless aim: to brush aside all those who have had free rein with Freddie's story for 32 years, to challenge their lies, and deliver the truth."

Freddie was said to have had a close bond with B, calling her "Bibi", '"tresor" (French for treasure) and his "little froggie". He is said to have written songs about her, such as Queen's Don't Try So Hard and Bijou.

Devoted

He is said to have fathered her after a brief fling with a friend's wife.

Only a select few knew about B including Freddie's parents, sister, bandmates and long-time confidante Mary Austin. The only facts made public about B were that she lived in Europe, worked in healthcare and had children. Freddie – who had relationships with men and women – had given B many of his journals.

B gave them to Lesley-Ann for her book and wrote in a letter: "Freddie Mercury was and is my father. We had a very close, loving relationship from the moment I was born and through the final 15 years of his life.

"He was devoted to me."

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DAILY EXPRESS

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High-stakes play could shape UK for a decade

KEMI Badenoch has shown she is a leader not to be messed with after her ruthless and decisive sacking of Robert Jenrick.

She made the swift decision for the good of the Conservative Party after discovering evidence of his plans to defect to Nigel Farage's Reform UK.

It was a Thatcher-esque move of the highest order.

But let's make no bones about it, yesterday's dramatic events in Westminster will have a seismic impact in the battle for the Right of British politics.

The winner will lead the fight against a Labour Party in turmoil and struggling badly in the polls.

While the Tories are the dominant force in the Commons in terms of MPs, Reform is seemingly on an unstoppable rise across the country.

Mr Farage has given a hard deadline of May's local, Scottish and Welsh elections for any more defections, indicating that many senior Tories are lining up to jump ship.

In poker terms he has gone all in to fulfil his ambition of destroying the Conservatives once and for all.

But Mrs Badenoch will no doubt stand firm, demanding loyalty from a party that is largely united.

What was already gearing up to be a brutal few months in British politics has just got a lot uglier.

2026 could well be the year in which the next decade of Britain's political fortunes is shaped.

Time to get it done

THERE can be no excuses now Peers have been given more time to debate the Assisted Dying Bill in the House of Lords.

They will get an extra 25 hours to complete their scrutiny following weeks of dither and delay.

Lord Falconer, who is leading the legislation through the upper chamber, has urged his fellow peers to work together to get it through in time.

The much-debated Bill will only become law if the House of Commons and the Lords agree on its final drafting.

Approval is needed before spring when the current session of Parliament ends.

With the clock ticking, supporters of the law change have accused some opponents in the Lords of filibustering and trying to "talk out" the contentious legislation, having tabled more than 1,000 amendments – a record number for a Private Member's Bill.

Enough is enough. They must now get a move on. People's lives depend on it and they're running out of time.

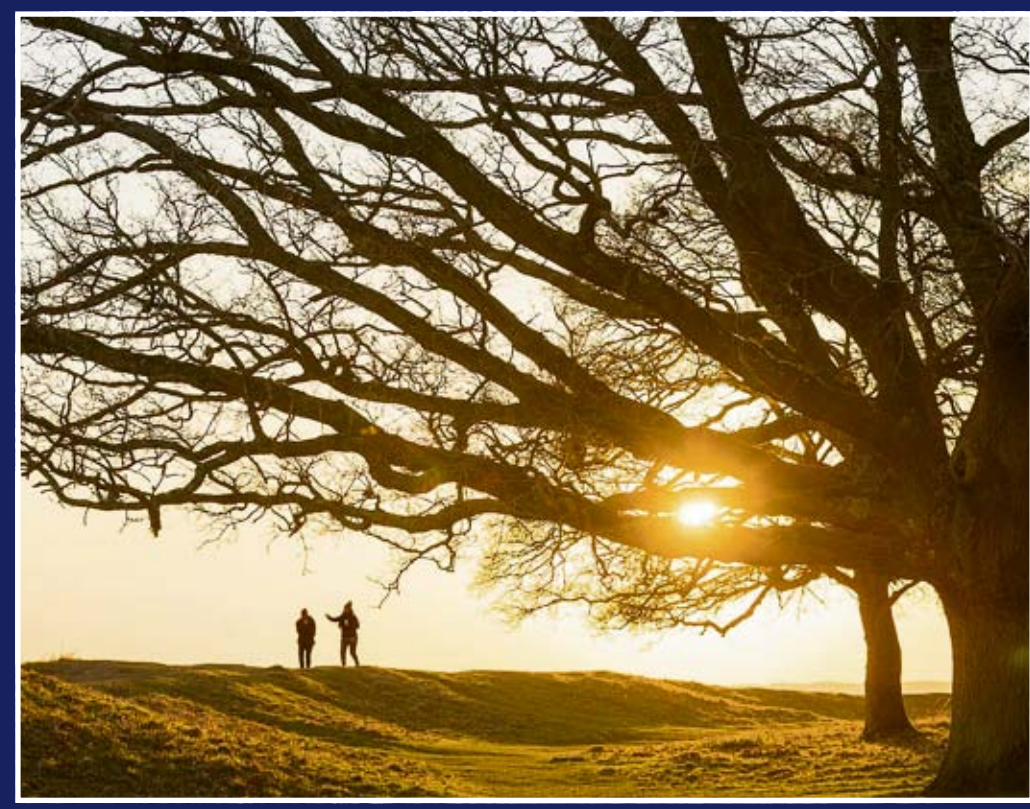
Showtime for Euro icons

FULL marks to the Eurovision Song Contest for announcing a live tour to celebrate its 70th birthday.

The show will begin in London after this year's grand final, featuring some of the most memorable performers from the seven decades of the competition.

Eurovision fans will be able to enjoy a veritable feast, which will hopefully include UK winners Sandie Shaw, Lulu, Brotherhood of Man, Bucks Fizz and Katrina and the Waves.

Find enlightenment in nature during the dark days of winter



A daily dose of nature during the winter can do wonders to lift the seasonal blues

Andy Beer
Guest Columnist

OFTEN it's tempting to ignore the news, especially when it's as grim and unrelenting as it has been so far in 2026. When that happens to me, it's normally a sign that I need to get outside.

In the spring this is easy, as everything is bursting into life and who doesn't love a warm summer's day. But in the cold and dark of winter, it's harder to motivate myself, even when I know I'll feel better for it.

Like many people, I find the descent into the dark days of winter saps my spirits and causes me to hunker down.

Whatever the season however, a daily dose of nature and the outdoors can be a wonderful antidote. Even on a freezing night, getting as much fresh air as I can or stomping outside in the rain lifts my spirits.

It might feel like everything in nature has shut down for the winter, but with a careful eye, there are so many things that can bring delight. And, you can see them everywhere.

Some of them are tiny and simple. In winter, the bright yellow flash of lichen on an elder tree is delightful in the low sun.

In the autumn, I wait expectantly to see V-shaped skeins of geese coming back from their own Arctic summer to have a nice warm winter here.

At this time of year, hazel trees are bursting into flower with catkins like late Christmas decorations.

And I love the fact that we have taken to giving our monthly full moons a name.

Who wouldn't want to gaze at the "wolf moon" of January?

SADLY, we're one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, with one in six of our species facing extinction. But there are still so many fascinating plants and animals that could call the UK home.

We have somehow come to think of nature as something fragile that lives far away. Instead, it is something huge and powerful that is all around us.

What is more, because we live on the edge of a giant continent, lots of creatures also drop in to see us as they follow the Sun back and forth around the world.

I've found that nature and the outdoors are essential for my own well-being.

It offers me the chance to slow down and detach from whatever is preoccupying me indoors. Noticing the little things and taking delight in them puts things in perspective.

It's the same for many people – and it is good to talk about it – even if it has only taken me half a century to realise that it is okay to do so. Surveys show a high proportion of UK adults agree that being close to nature improves their mood and that is why my day job helping the National Trust provide access to nature, beauty and history for everyone feels so meaningful.

As you start to notice things then you realise that you can make a little difference too.

During the Covid lockdowns, my son and I dug a tiny pond in the front garden that now is humming with life. Feeding the birds in winter is vital for them and uplifting for me.

It also made me notice that some of the birds I see are tourists, while others are very much resident.

Indeed, the robin that sits on my watering can always gives me a look as if I am trespassing when I open the back door. I've learned that the turning of the seasons can add great meaning to our lives.

Winter is something to be celebrated, not just endured.

IF YOU'RE looking for inspiring places to get out and about then there are more than 500 National Trust sites dotted across the country that offer woodland walks, coastal hikes or garden wanders.

But you can also look for inspiration in the smallest places, like in hedgerows and on road verges.

Whatever you do and wherever you go, look after yourself this winter and look out for a little bit of nature every day. It might even change your life.

● *Andy Beer is director of Places And Strategy at the National Trust, which has a three-year partnership with mental health charity Mind to raise the benefits of nature for well-being. Visit mind.org.uk for more details*

EXCLUSIVE: FREE NATIONAL TRUST FAMILY PASS OFFER ON PAGE 26

Leo McKinstry

Days to forget as calendar hijacked by woke agenda

ONE NEW YEAR resolution the media should adopt is to give no more attention to the flood of guilt-tripping awareness events and public relations gimmicks that swamp the annual calendar.

This guff is all contrived propaganda to further a woke cause or a commercial agenda. The temporal equivalent of junk mail.

The dates are arbitrary, their selectors unaccountable. Why does anyone take seriously the demand that January 2 should be World Introvert Day or that February is LGBT+ history month?

And who decided that there should be a National Wiggle Your Toes Day on August 6 or World Vegetarian Day at the start of October?

Predictably, the attention-seeking trans lobby does well out of this racket, with March 31 classified as International Day of Transgender Visibility, followed by National Pronouns Day (October 21), Trans Awareness Week (beginning November 13) and Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20). Perhaps 2027 could be designated the year without sanctimonious or silly spin?

IN 1936, Winston Churchill told the Commons that the national government goes on "in a strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent".

It is the perfect description of Sir Keir Starmer's government, which this week executed its 13th major U-turn on public policy, this one on digital ID cards.

The Prime Minister has turned vacillation and retreat into the central principles of his misrule.

Left has lost its voice over Iranian tyranny

WHERE are the furious protests and angry marches? Why have the streets not echoed to radical chants and rhythmic drum beats? Have there been any sightings of Jeremy Corbyn's proletarian peaked cap or George Galloway's flamboyant fedora – twin sartorial emblems of revolutionary defiance?

Normally so quick to organise rallies, wave flags and start boycotts, the British Left has been strangely muted about Iran's brutish tyranny. The well-thumbed lexicon of indignation remains untouched, in graphic contrast to the never-ending cycle of pro-Palestinian protests since Israel mounted its fightback after the murderous assault by Hamas in October 2023.

Any display of strength by Tel-Aviv, no matter how justified, has Left-wingers frothing with outrage. Yet they show little interest in the savage crackdown by Tehran's theocratic regime, which has led to the slaughter of some 2,000 dissidents.

In relation to Iran, all that has occurred here have been two minor rallies in Birmingham and London, plus a clash outside a Kilburn mosque between backers and opponents of Ayatollah Khamenei.

Yet 20 years ago, in 2005, central London was paralysed for several weekends by huge protests against a Danish magazine that published cartoons of Mohammed. It is an indicator of warped values among Islamic hardliners and Left-wingers that such images then caused more offence than today's liquidation of democracy campaigners.

What makes the present indifference of the Left all the more extraordinary is that women are in the vanguard of the rebellion against the mullahs. Their heroic willingness to risk imprisonment, even death, by challenging Iran's barbaric legal code is highlighted by their refusal to wear the Islamic headscarf or hijab, now a hated symbol of oppression.

Yet in Britain, fashionable "woke" opinion regards such attitudes as dangerously reactionary.

So instead of cheering the struggle for female emancipation, misguided progressives here and across the West celebrate the hijab as a triumphant badge of cultural diversity. In language that could have come straight from Orwell's dystopian novel 1984, propaganda for a PR stunt called World Hijab Day – held every year at the start of February – proclaims the headgear "a symbol of freedom".

The same warped thinking led to the installation of a massive sculpture in Birmingham by the charity Legacy West Midlands, which received almost £1million in donations last year to promote social inclusion. Featuring a veiled Muslim woman, the towering structure bears the title, "The Strength of the Hijab", words that would sound like a sick joke to the genuine freedom warriors of Iran.

MUCH of Britain's civic and political order has lost its moral compass because it is in thrall to militant Islam. This is partly driven by fear of aggression from zealots who value obedience above liberty and partly by identity politics, where Muslims are portrayed as the eternal targets of western bigotry, imperialism, and privilege. In turn, the narrative of victimhood, laced with intimidation, feeds the impulse to appease – seen in the grooming gangs scandal and, more recently, in the shameful collusion between West Midlands Police and local Islamists to ban Israeli football fans from a European cup tie in Birmingham.

The same cowardly spirit is eroding free speech, democracy and equality. Sectarianism and antisemitism are spreading. Demands are growing for a statutory definition of Islamophobia while sharia jurisdiction is increasingly accepted in Muslim- dominated areas.

This pattern throws up stark contradictions, none more glaring than in concern for the treatment of women in modern Britain.

According to some politicians, the epidemic of misogyny has become a national emergency, reflected in surging figures for assault, domestic violence and modern slavery. But that is the inevitable result of importing record numbers of men from cultures that do not respect women's rights, like Iran under the mullahs.

Picture: DAN KITWOOD/GETTY

New recruit is Nadhim to write home about...

THE DECISION of former Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi to join Reform was hailed as the greatest coup yet for Nigel Farage in a lengthening list of Tory defections – though Robert Jenrick has now trumped him.

But Zahawi's cheerleaders claim that having served at the Treasury, Education and Health – where he led the Covid jabs programme – he will give Reform the kind of hard political experience that Farage lacks.

But Zahawi is no Titan. On the contrary, he is a political mediocrity. He spent just 63 days as Chancellor, never delivered a Budget, and was mired in controversy.

Just one day after accepting the job from an embattled Boris Johnson in July 2022, he saw which way the political wind was blowing and cynically called on the PM to quit.

During Rishi Sunak's premiership, he was forced to leave the Cabinet after being found to have breached the Ministerial Code by not disclosing he was under investigation by HMRC over a £5million unpaid tax bill.

His poor judgment was revealed by a bid to be PM in the 2022 leadership election. Mind you, the winner, Liz Truss, was equally deluded.

BEAUTIFUL BIRD IN ELEGANT FLIGHT SADLY FOUND THE SKY WAS INDEED ITS LIMIT

THE FASTEST, most beautiful airliner ever built began operations half a century ago this month. It was on January 21, 1976, that Concorde took off from Heathrow and headed towards Bahrain on its first commercial flight.

Unfortunately, despite its aesthetic elegance and supersonic speed, it failed to sell beyond the national airlines of France and Britain, mainly because of the noise it generated and its high fuel consumption.

Only 20 were built. But what a majestic sight they were.

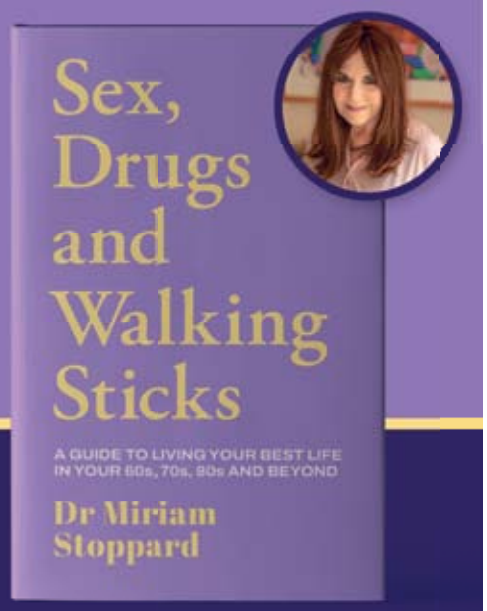
DAILY EXPRESSO SEE HOST JJ ANISIOBI AND GUESTS IN NEW EPISODES MONDAY TO FRIDAY ON THE EXPRESS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard

AMAZON

ON SALE FROM ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND AMAZON



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William Hickey

Bringing the gossip since 1933

TURNING a glamorous 75 next month, actress and former Bond girl Jane Seymour, *pictured*, confirms plans to finally release her memoir.

"I've just started writing my autobiography and I've got so many stories and so many extraordinary things that have happened," enthuses the British star, long based in California. "I keep thinking, 'How did that actually happen to me?'"

Are Jane's four ex-husbands sitting comfortably? Third and fourth spouses David Flynn and James Keach both had affairs, while Flynn's financial dealings (as Jane's business manager) also left her facing bankruptcy in the 1990s.

CELEBRATING receiving his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Scottish show pony Alan Cumming can't resist gleefully announcing: "I'd also like to thank the acting teacher I had at drama school who told me that I'd never make it as a professional actor. And I'd like to say: 'Who's on top and who is on bottom now?'"

Miaow!

REMAINING on her long-running ITV show despite recent cutbacks, daytime telly queen Lorraine Kelly philosophically remarks: "I'm a realist and I've been through a lot of changes over the years... we're resilient in our industry."

It's no accident canny Lorraine has survived the ruthless world of morning TV for over 40 years.

WHILE husband John Playfair lost two stone courtesy of weight-loss injections, Dame Prue Leith admits that her wine consumption went up as a result.

Having herself given up on the jabs after failing to shift the pounds, thirsty Prue remarks: "It kills your appetite for alcohol as well. So he'd have a tiny bit of his glass of wine and I'd drink my whole glass of wine. Then I'd have my second glass, which I normally do... and then I'd end up drinking his!"

MONTHS shy of his 90th birthday, delightfully bonkers thespian and space obsessive Brian Blessed roars: "I'm a fully trained cosmonaut, a trained member of Nasa... I've got top scientists working on plans to take me to Mars."

History confirms we must always take Mr Blessed's pronouncements with a bagful of salt.

SEVEN years since last playing dragon queen Daenerys Targaryen in blockbuster series Game of Thrones, British actress Emilia Clarke, *pictured*, plans to give the fantasy genre a wide berth for the rest of her career. "You're highly unlikely to see me get on a dragon, or even in the same frame as a dragon, ever again," she declares.

Famous last words, Emilia?

AFTER championing the cause of the nation's pubs, Jeremy Clarkson is irked to find one punter complaining about a pint of his Hawkstone lager brand costing "£6.75".

Owner of The Farmer's Dog in Oxfordshire, Jeremy snaps: "If you can make it for less, I'd love to hear from you."

By **Robert Meakin**

Austria's JJ wins last year

Euro tour for song contest's birthday

BY **JON COATES**

THE Eurovision Song Contest has announced a live tour to celebrate its 70th birthday, beginning in London after this year's grand final.

The tour is set to feature some of the most memorable performers from past decades, but the line-up has not yet been revealed.

The European Broadcasting Union confirmed that the tour will also feature performances from 10 of this year's entrants.

Artists taking part will sing their own Eurovision entries, plus cover versions of their favourite songs from the contest's 70-year history.

The tour begins at London's O2 Arena on June 15 and will go on to Hamburg, Milan, Zürich, Antwerp, Cologne, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Paris and Stockholm.

Magic

Contest director Martin Green revealed organisers "wanted to do something truly unique and special" to mark the milestone.

He said: "For the very first time we are bringing the magic of the contest's live experience directly to fans all over Europe."

Mr Green added that the format of the tour would "capture the evolution of the contest" and "celebrate our fantastic past whilst looking to the future".

The line-up of 2026 artists joining will not be announced until after the grand final on May 16, which takes place in Vienna following the win by Austria's JJ last year.

The announcement comes after several countries pulled out of the 2026 contest due to Israel's participation.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Sydney's looking for puppy love

Sydney in the trailer for the latest series of Euphoria, dressed as a dog and wearing a gingham check bikini

BY **JAMIE DOWNHAM**

SYDNEY Sweeney might be in the doghouse for dressing up as a puppy in gritty teen drama Euphoria.

The actress, 28, returns as nice-girl-turned-nasty Cassie in the HBO hit, opposite Jacob Elordi, 28, as her fiancé, Nate.

Zendaya, 29, is also back in the series that helped propel all three to stardom. She stars as addict Rue Bennett, whose past catches up with her.

● *Euphoria series 3 starts April 13 on Sky Atlantic and Now.*

Zendaya plays Rue Bennett

Zendaya with a gun in the new season, which is set five years after high school

UK ban on sexual deepfakes ‘in weeks’ as Musk also acts

Elon Musk has cracked down

BY **SOPHIE WINGATE** and **CHRISTOPHER MCKEON**

GENERATING sexual deepfake images without consent will become illegal within weeks, David Lammy confirmed amid the outcry over Elon Musk’s Grok AI chatbot.

Ministers have brought forward legislation, with the ban coming into force on February 6.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and his deputy Mr Lammy welcomed news that social media platform X is imposing new restrictions on Grok but vowed to do more to protect women and children.

On Wednesday night, X said it would prevent Grok “editing images of people in revealing clothes” and block users from generating similar images of real people in countries where it is illegal. The move follows mounting pressure, including an Ofcom investigation in the UK and bans in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Sir Keir said he was “glad” Musk’s company had acted but said “we’re not going to let this go”.

Ofcom also welcomed Musk’s move but its probe will continue.

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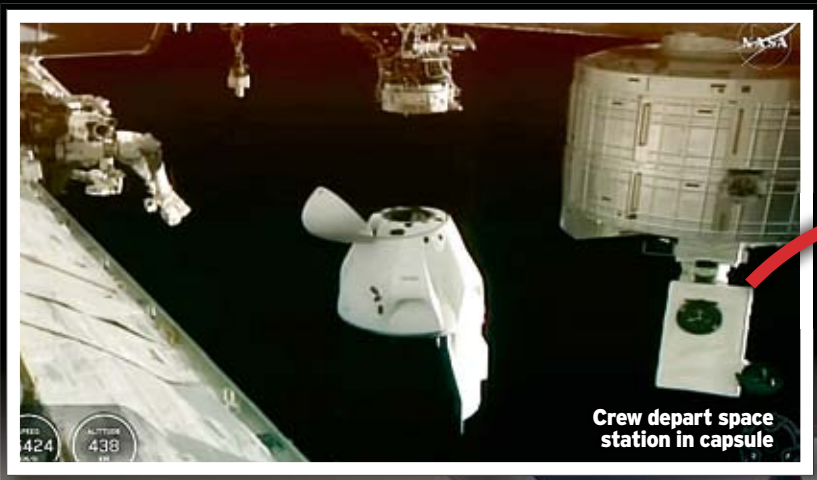
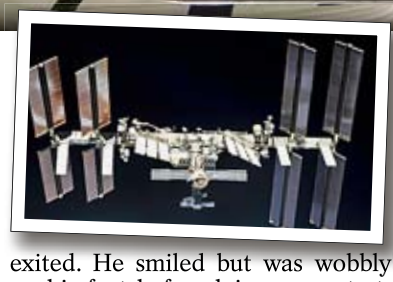


Crew depart space station in capsule



BY **ANDY LINES**

A TEAM of astronauts dramatically returned to Earth a month early yesterday after one developed a serious medical condition.

The four were forced to leave the International Space Station and safely splashed down in the Pacific.

One of Crew-11 shouted: “It’s so good to be home!”

Nasa has not identified the sick crew member but said they were in a stable condition.

It is the first time Nasa has ever cut short a mission to the ISS, *above right*, owing to a health problem. The SpaceX capsule landed less than 11 hours after the crew were evacuated from the ISS.

After the capsule was opened off the coast of San Diego the crew’s captain, American Mike Fincke, 58, exited. He smiled but was wobbly on his feet before lying on a stretcher, which is normal procedure.

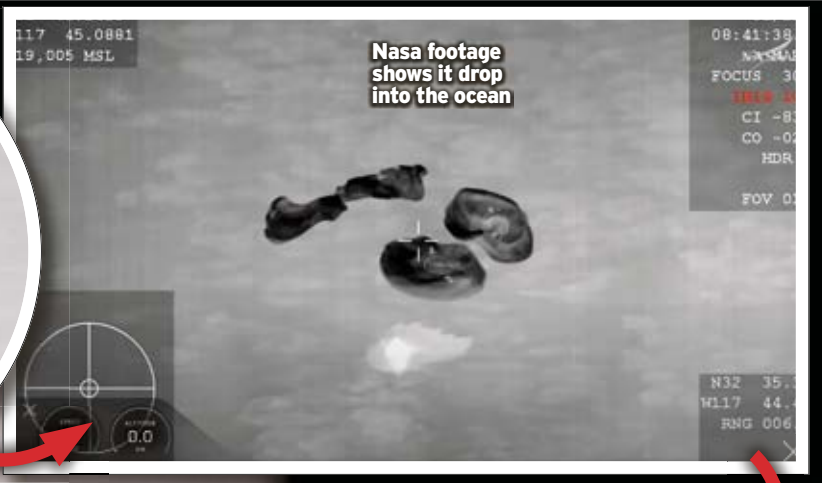
Nasa’s Zena Cardman, 38, from the US, Japan’s Kimiya Yui, 55, and cosmonaut Oleg Platonov, 39, seemed jubilant.

Earlier Fincke called it “bittersweet” as he handed over the keys of the ISS to Sergey Kud-Sverchjov.

Nasa chief Jared Isaacman said: “The crew member of concern is doing fine. While this was the first time we had to return crew slightly ahead of schedule, Nasa was ready.

Streak in the night sky as the craft returns

Parachutes open for its landing



Nasa footage shows it drop into the ocean

Oleg Platonov, Mike Fincke, Zena Cardman, and Kimiya Yui in the capsule

Capsule bobs on the waves

Rescue craft pluck it out of the water

Astronauts return safely in Nasa's first ever medical emergency evacuation

SPACE:999

Hxxxcap WOB no kickerx

This is exactly why we train and this is Nasa at its finest.

"Spaceflight will always carry some degree of uncertainty, that is the nature of exploration.

"Fundamentally, it's why we are in space, to learn. It's why Nasa prepares for the unexpected."

Joel Montalbano, the deputy associate administrator of space operations, said they decided to bring the crew home a week ago.

He admitted the crew was sad about the decision to cut their mission short. "We have some of the best trained astronauts and not just Nasa, across the international partnership," he added. "So they prepared."

He revealed the crew were even cracking jokes on the way back.

The crew spent just under 170 days in space, completing 900 hours of science experiments.

The four astronauts were taken to a medical facility in San Diego where they will stay overnight.

They are expected to return to Houston later today, pending their medical test results.

Dr Helen Sharman, the first Briton in space, said the crew will need to get reconditioned to Earth. "It's not like they open the hatch, give them a quick once-over and then say, 'okay, go home'," she said. Officials refused to identify the ill astronaut, or what the emergency was.

Zena beams after landing

The ISS has been permanently crewed for 26 years. Space missions have ended early due to health issues twice before, but never involving Nasa. In 1985, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Vasyutin and his colleagues returned four months ahead of schedule from a mission to the Salyut 7 space station due to a urological issue. And in 1987, a heart arrhythmia caused cosmonaut Aleksandr Laveykin to leave early.

At an altitude of 250 miles above Earth, the ISS makes 16 orbits of our planet a day, travelling at 17,500mph.

It is run by five space agencies and carries out research about space and the effects of microgravity on humans, animals and plants.

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Donald Trump loves Big Macs

Trump lucky to be alive on his junk diet, claims RFK

BY **ELIANA NUNES**

US health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jnr says he does not know how Donald Trump is alive because "he eats really bad food".

The cabinet member was asked who has the most "unhinged" eating habits, and revealed the president's diet consists of McDonald's, sweets and Diet Coke.

He added: "He has the constitution of a deity.

"I don't know how he's alive, but he is."

Mr Kennedy clarified the 79-year-old only eats "junk food" while travelling.

He said: "He wants to eat food from big corporations because he trusts it and he doesn't want to get sick when he's on the road."

He added that those travelling with Mr Trump "get this idea he's just pumping himself full of poison all day" when, in reality, he eats "really good food" at the White House and at home.

Robert F Kennedy Jnr

Mr Kennedy made the comments on The Katie Miller Podcast.

Rumours about Mr Trump's health often swirl, prompting him and his administration to issue reassurances.

This month, he told the Wall Street Journal he takes higher doses of aspirin than doctors recommend, which he blamed for the bruises on his hands.

He has been pictured wearing concealer, plasters or bandages to cover the ugly marks.

This week he said: "I want nice, thin blood going through my heart.

"I don't like blood thinners because everyone I know that took them is dead."

Harriet points the finger at Rachel as part of her dramatic departure

Despite Harriet's accusations, Rachel did not receive a single vote

Crime writer's flawed plot...

Harriet's plan to expose Traitor fails as Rachel doesn't receive single vote

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**

HARRIET Tyce's attempt to out Rachel Duffy on The Traitors has backfired as her "number one suspect" avoided suspicion.

The barrister-turned-crime-writer had insisted on being banished to prove she was a Faithful and Rachel was working for the dark side.

However, during last night's Round Table, Rachel did not receive a single vote to oust her.

Harriet had also pointed the finger at Roxy Wilson and Matthew Hyndman, claiming they too were Traitors. But Roxy went totally under the radar, while Matthew got two votes.

Instead, another pair of Faithfuls left the castle with Sam Little, the smooth-talking Yorkshire lad, getting banished after Adam Waughman, the ghost-hunting builder from Essex, was murdered.

Adam, 34, blamed his exit on team-mate James Baker, after the gardener from Weymouth upset his group during the previous day's fountain mission by taking a shield without telling anyone.

Adam said: "That's 100% the reason why I got murdered.

"I knew it was James, he didn't even have to tell me. I had the hump with him most of that day, which probably made it very obvious that I didn't have the shield."

Adam believes he would have done better if he had been a Traitor.

He said: "It might sound funny but it's easier for me to lie than it is for me to tell the truth. It's how my brain works. If I tell a lie, my brain has already registered it and created a fantasy story of it, and it just flows."

Sam, also 34, said he his tactics were flawed as he had come across as "arrogant and over-confident" to the others.

He admitted his biggest mistake was grabbing the shield rather than the gold in the haunted cabin mission, in which the contestants had to contend with blood-covered banshees, ghostly typewriters and blood dripping down the walls as they tried to decipher names.

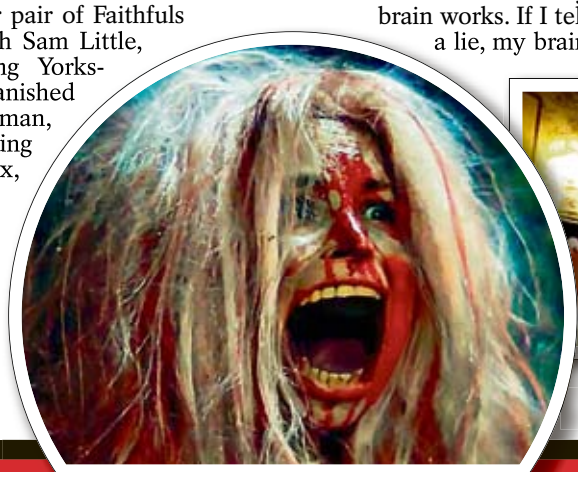
Sam said: "That definitely led to my downfall. I just wanted to protect myself, but I know for everyone else that it did look weird.

"I remember thinking the writing was on the wall for me here. There's only so long you can fight for, and I think I swerved it a few times. I'm so happy I stayed in as long as I did, but I think it was my time to leave."

Bookies have placed Traitor Stephen Libby as 10/11 favourite to win, followed by fellow turret-dweller Rachel at 6/4.

Despite having been voted as the "most faithful" player, Hull hairdresser Jessie Stride has the longest odds at 25/1.

The BBC One show is continuing to enthral viewers, with the series four opener having been watched by 11 million viewers and counting. Episode nine will air tonight at 8pm.



Ellie Buckley and Jack Butler are spooked by blood from the wall. Left, a crazed banshee

Adam gets murdered and, inset, Sam is banished

THINGS REALLY

EXCLUSIVE

By **Craig McLean**

Peter living the dream during his band's reunion at Glastonbury 2024

With dad Patrick and sister Philippa

The family surprising Peter, centre, with D:Ream-theme T-shirts

Wrenched from his mother's arms as a newborn in a convent, D:Ream singer Peter Cunnah reveals the joy of finding a whole new family in his late 50s

ALONE, afraid and far from home, Ann McCrea was pulled into the chapel by a nun. The 21-year-old was pushed to her knees, which must have hurt – she'd only given birth a few days previously – before the nun thrust a set of rosary beads at her and barked: "Pray for forgiveness, and for your sins of being a harlot."

As Ann clasped her hands, she could hear high heels clicking in the hallway. The nun, holding her before the altar, said: "That's for your sins. That's your child being taken away."

When a distraught Ann tried to struggle to her feet, the nun restrained her.

Six decades on, the baby – Peter Cunnah, the Northern Irish frontman of dance-pop duo D:Ream – pauses and shakes his head. "That system," he says.

He looks incredulous at the cruel punishment meted out in 1966 to his birth mother, who was unmarried and single, by nuns at mother-and-baby home Nazareth House, near Buncrana in Co Donegal.

"And that's the least of it. Some of these women were worked until they miscarried," he says.

Also known as Magdalene laundries, the homes have become notorious for their historic mistreatment of young, pregnant women in staunchly Catholic Ireland. "In some of these places, they're finding bodies of babies buried in the grounds," Peter says.

At less than a week old, he was given up for adoption. Ann wouldn't see her son again for 25 years. When the pair finally met, they were overwhelmed by emotion.

"I remember she said, 'You smoke other people's cigarettes?'" recalls Peter. "And I went: 'Yeah.' 'You like spicy foods?' I went: 'Yeah...' It was a really emotional moment where I thought, 'Good God, she's got the measure of me, and she's not even started speaking with me'."

Peter's knowledge of his adoption is something that has consumed him, in various forms, throughout his life. But, in the last few months at the age of 59, the musician has finally found the full truth about his family and who he is.

"It's been the final corner of the jigsaw puzzle," he says, looking dazed with joy at his recent discoveries.

They include a half-sister who, it turns out, is also a professional singer. And a half-brother who, like Peter, had his moments in the spotlight on Top of the Pops. And a father who wasn't aware he even existed.

WHEN Peter and I speak, he's in Manchester to mark the release of D:Ream's new album, Do It Anyway, with a concert alongside Happy Mondays and the Ibiza Orchestra at Cheshire's Cholmondeley Castle.

Adding to the party mood are his newfound family members, who have travelled from their homes across the North of England for the get-together.

All of them surprised Peter by wearing T-shirts printed with the title of D:Ream's biggest hit – Things Can Only Get Better – poignantly followed by its lyric: "Now you found us." As reunions go it even surpasses the moment at Glastonbury 2024 when D:Ream were joined by original keyboard player Brian Cox – now better known as a scientist, professor and TV presenter.

"That was such a lovely moment," recalls Peter with a grin.

When he introduced Brian on to the stage, "the roar from the crowd was like being at a football match when someone scores. Just a moment of pure, unadulterated joy".

Growing up just a few miles from Buncrana, over the border in Londonderry, Peter knew from the age of four that he was adopted. Even before the woman he calls his mum officially broke the news, she dropped hints. "She used to sing Nobody's Child, that country record!" Peter says, laughing.

"But one night, when we were alone, the truth came out. I said to her, 'But you're my real Mammy and Daddy.'"

He doesn't deny his childhood had some dark moments, though. "I had a bad start," he says. "I came up through the Troubles. Being called a b*****d in the playground hurt. But I dealt with it."

He was devoted to his adoptive parents, Les and Monica, and they to him – and to his sister Lesley Ann, who was adopted from different birth parents. Then, in 1991, just before D:Ream broke through, a letter arrived for him, care of Monica, via the Catholic Family Care Society.

"My mother opened it. I'll never forget what she said. 'Son, I've been waiting for this letter for you all your life.'" It was from his birth mother. "It was an outpouring of absolute trauma and grief and regret," says Peter, as he opens his laptop and finds a copy of it.

"Dear Peter and your parents," he reads. "What you may call me is hard to know what to put in writing.

"I don't want very much from you. I just want you to try and understand what I've been through for 24 years. Sometimes hell, not knowing anything, being told nothing.

"People through the years saying, 'Peter will come to you.' It helped me sometimes to think you will. But when I inquired, they could not do anything for me – up until this year.

"All I want is a photo and to know something about you. I don't want to upset you,

DID GET BETTER

The pop star, 59, has finally found missing pieces of his puzzle

your family or my own. Peter, you might hate me… in all these 24 years, in my prayers I say, 'take all sorrows and hatred from my heart'. But it's still with me. God bless you and your parents… Ann McCrea."

PETER went to meet Ann in her home in the Northern Irish town of Strabane, where she still lives at the age of 81. He discovered that in 1965 she was the lead singer of an Irish band called The Marines and in a relationship with the drummer. When she became pregnant, she was shipped off to Nazareth House. That was the end of her relationship and her employment in the band. Peter says: "When she saw me in 1991, the first thing she said was: 'You're his spit'."

But she didn't mean The Marines' drummer. She meant their guitarist, Patrick Dusky, who was 19 in 1965.

"Reading between the lines, I think it might have been a one-night stand," says Peter. "Ann had tried to reach out to him back then. But her letters were stopped by her very strict Catholic parents."

A long-overdue mother-son connection was formed – and as it turned out, a mother-mother-son connection.

Peter says: "Ann and Monica became good friends. I have a great picture of me sitting between them at a D:Ream gig. I couldn't have wished for a better outcome." Ann went on to have four more children – Peter's half-siblings.

But, out of love and respect for his adoptive father Les – who he describes as a "legend" – he chose not to try to solve the mystery of his paternity.

Things stayed that way until Les died in December 2024, five years after Monica's death. "I felt released from that honour and commitment," admits Peter. "I thought, I need to do this now."

So last spring, armed with email addresses and social media profiles dug up after "endless cold nights trawling the internet", Peter contacted the woman he thought might be Patrick's daughter. Bradford-based Philippa Hanna is a singer in the gospel world and her dad is called Patrick – but Patrick Hanna.

He'd relocated from Ireland to England and had a career as a travelling musician. Then, came the clincher: Dusky had been his stage name.

Peter and Philippa began talking on the phone and forged an instant connection. To confirm what they both felt in their bones, Peter took a DNA test. It was a match with the Hannas. Patrick is his dad, and Philippa his half-sister.

"Philippa and I have struck up a great relationship, and she's an amazing singer," says Peter. "The DNA on this side of the family is running hot on music."

It certainly is. Prior to being married to Philippa's mum Sandra, Patrick was wed to Cherine, with whom he had two children, Jacqui and Stuart Zender.

Stuart joined 1990s funk sensation Jamiroquai and had a child with another of the era's pop stars – All Saints' Melanie Blatt.

Peter has now connected with Stuart by comparing memories of the music industry.

"It was like talking with myself, honestly!" says Peter of their recent meeting in Manchester. "We've both been through the mangle of the music biz."

LAST May, Peter received a phone call at his recording studio overlooking Lough Swilly in County Donegal – only a few miles, it turns out, from the institution in which he was born. It was Patrick.

"It was so amazing to hear his voice," says Peter, his voice dropping to a whisper. Again, the connection was instant. "He was so easy to get on with."

As for meeting the son he never knew he had, it's been nothing but a tonic for Patrick. "He's had some ill-health in the last couple of years," Philippa tells me. "But it's really given him a fresh wind in his sails."

And what of Ann? She was happy to hear about Peter and Patrick's reunion.

"My [half-]brother Michael showed her pictures of me with Patrick," says Peter. "She said she barely recognised him and he looked like an old man! My brother said to her: 'Have you had a look at yourself recently?' She did laugh at that."

Despite all those lost years, Peter understands how fortunate he is to have found his birth parents and to have been embraced by them and their families.

At D:Ream's Manchester concert, Patrick Dusky was down the front, beaming and giving his long-lost son the thumbs-up – one dyed-in-the-wool entertainer to another.

"If I was Elton John, I'd have him on stage with me!" laughs Peter.

"But I am thinking about this year. It's Patrick's 80th, and my 60th, so I'm going to rent a mansion, with a pool and 40-odd rooms, and bring everyone over and have a big celebration."

Who, I ask Peter, has been the most emotional, the most tearful, in all this?

"Probably me," he smiles. "I wear my heart on my sleeve. And with all that's gone on, why wouldn't I? There's been enough hidden and held back.

"They say boys don't cry. Well, they do, when it's important. What was more important than finding family?"

● *D:Ream's album Do It Anyway is out now. For full 2026 uk tour dates, visit d-ream.co.uk*

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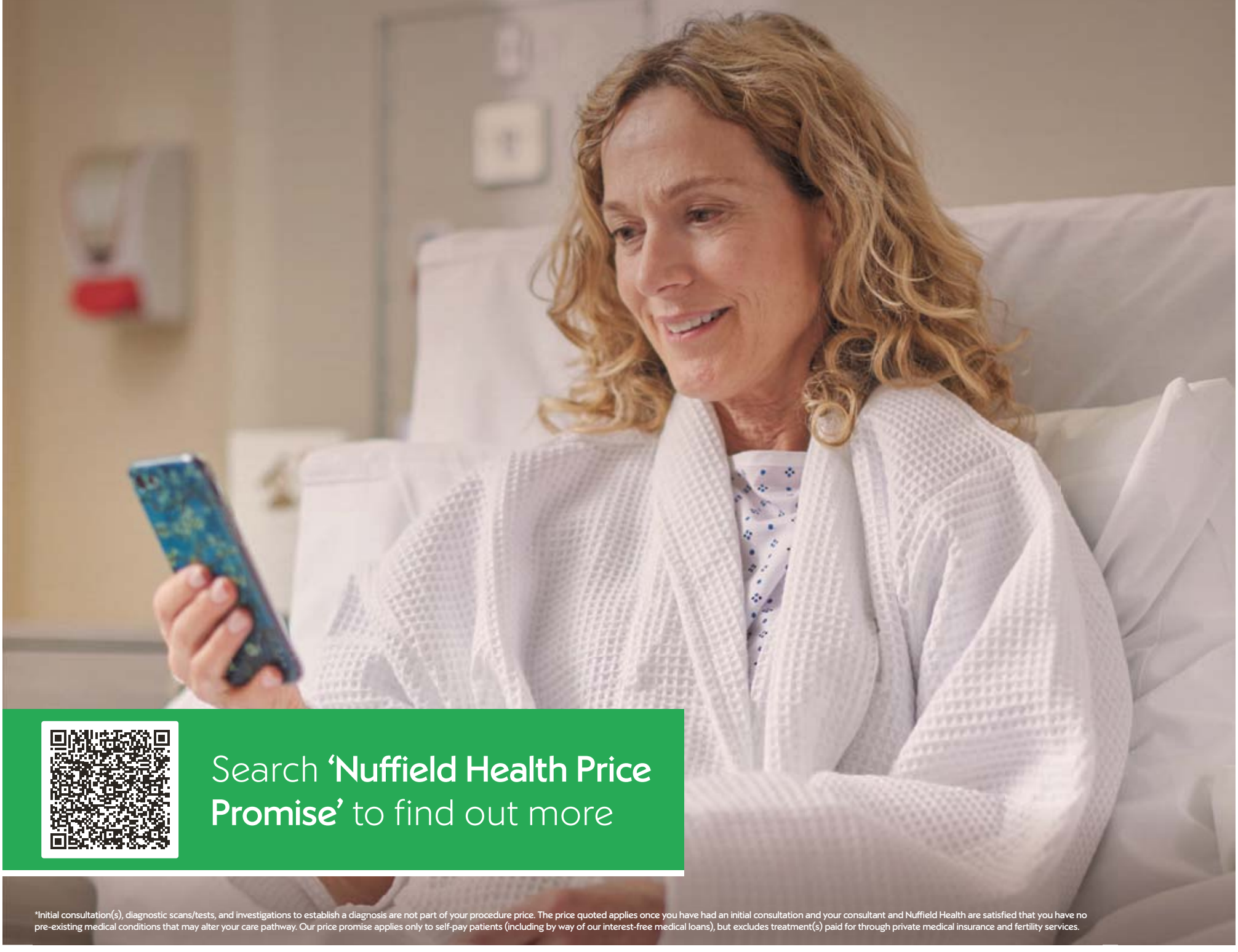

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Picture: JORDAN PETTITT/PA

Wes Streeting meeting NHS staff in Croydon, South London, yesterday

800 children placed in illegal care homes 'may be at risk'

BY **DAVE BURKE**

HUNDREDS of children were placed in illegally unregistered residential care homes, a report has found.

Around one in 10 of the youngsters in residential care were put in unregistered housing, the Commons public accounts committee found, meaning they could be put at risk.

In September last year, 800 had been placed in illegal homes, its report found. Tory MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, who chairs the committee, said: "For the hundreds of children highlighted in our report living for months in illegally unregistered homes, a lack of oversight means we cannot know whether their circumstances are... safe, stable or loving."

Education inspectorate Ofsted highlighted unregistered care homes in a report last month.

It said: "This shadow market only exists because there aren't enough of the right kinds of places in legitimate registered homes."

NHS waiting lists drop to a three-year low

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**
Health Editor

THE NHS waiting list for hospital treatment has fallen to its lowest level since early 2023, figures show.

Some 6.17 million patients were waiting for 7.31 million planned hospital treatments at the end of November, down from 6.24 million waiting for 7.40 million procedures or appointments a month earlier.

It means the waiting list is now at its lowest level since February 2023, when the figure was 7.22 million.

NHS chiefs celebrated the biggest monthly drop in waiting lists outside the pandemic for 15 years.

Investment

Health Secretary Wes Streeting, meeting staff during an NHS data day at the New Addington Community Diagnostics Centre in Croydon, South London, said it was proof of the government "turning promises into change people can actually feel".

He added: "That means faster care, less anxiety for families and people back on their feet and back to work.

"This is the result of record investment and modernisation, alongside the hard work of NHS staff."

But think tanks warned the drop followed "months of stalling or moving in the wrong direction". Nuffield Trust's Sarah Scobie said: "The balance between referrals for treatment versus treatment delivered hasn't changed much in months.

"So it's likely a big proportion of recent waiting list reductions have happened due to reasons other than the NHS boosting activity.

"One example of this is 'data cleaning' exercises. A lack of transparency about this can sometimes create an illusion that the NHS is delivering more care than it is."

Sarah Woolnough, of The King's Fund, said the fall "cannot be described as transformational, with waiting lists only falling by 4% to 7.3 million since Labour took power despite this latest drop of 87,000".

She added: "Even though this only represents a small dent in the overall waiting list, it should not be underestimated the relief and improvement in quality of life for those tens of thousands of people who have got the treatment they have long waited for."

Some 1,500 patients in England were estimated to have been waiting over 18 months for routine hospital treatment at the end of November 2025, down from 1,716 in October.

AI 'to improve consultations'

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**

HEALTH chiefs claim that an AI revolution will help doctors save two to three minutes in every consultation by generating notes.

NHS bodies are being urged to use IT that listens to appointments to create real-time transcriptions and clinical summaries.

The kit must meet standards on clinical safety and data protection.

Dr Alec Price-Forbes, national chief clinical information officer, said: "We want to arm our NHS staff with the latest technology, which has the potential to transform the quality, safety and experience of care patients receive, as well as improving efficiency.

"AI notetaking tools will help free up more time for clinicians to focus on their patients, rather than typing up notes or looking at a screen – enhancing the quality of consultations and improving overall patient satisfaction."

A trial led by Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children last year showed a 23.5% increase in direct patient interaction time in appointments that used AI scribes.

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‘Take time to have a chat with your children about staying safe online’

PHONE SMART
Conversation is key says Giovanna

‘Having an open dialogue is really important,’ says author and podcaster Giovanna Fletcher

WITH their 11-year-old son starting secondary school in September, Giovanna and Tom Fletcher decided it was time for him to have a phone.

But the couple knew that first they had to speak to each other – and to him.

“They can access so much – you’ve got to think about how you manage that, and keep them safe,” says Giovanna, 40.

“It’s something I’ve dreaded being a part of my life. There are so many statistics about children seeing inappropriate content, along with mental health worries, and that’s why parents need to have conversations with their children, so they feel more empowered.”

Thousands of children will have been given a smartphone for Christmas, with families now navigating the pitfalls and positives that come with that.

Throughout the next year, we’re running a campaign – The Family Chat – with Tesco Mobile, encouraging families to talk about online devices, no matter what stage their children are at. We’ll showcase the support and resources available, including Tesco Mobile’s age-specific toolkits and support for parents and children.

“That’s why I love being part of this campaign – I’ll find gaps in my knowledge that will help us as a family,” says Giovanna. “As parents we put so much pressure on ourselves to have all the answers, but Tesco Mobile’s resources and online hub make it so much easier.”

Giovanna and McFly frontman and children’s author Tom, 40, have two other sons, aged seven and nine, who have tablets that allow them to message Mum and Dad, Nan, Grandad and their cousins. They play games online and video call each other. “It’s a way of communicating, and with me and Tom being away for work, having the kids know they can call us whenever is really important,” explains Giovanna.

“When our eldest went to high school we wanted him to be able to contact us. He has one of our old smartphones, but we used settings to restrict what it could do. We wanted him to feel it was functional, not a gadget to get lost in. There’s no internet access and it’s linked to Tom’s phone so he can’t download anything without Tom’s permission.

“It’s an open dialogue with him – talking about what you’re putting in place and why is really important. The kids understand it more when they know the reason for it.”

Giovanna also acknowledges that it’s not just kids who are in danger of spending too much time looking at their devices.

“There’s no phone in the bedroom, we never have them at the dinner table and, as much as possible when the kids are around, we’re not on our phones.

“When you give a child a phone with internet access, you’re giving them access to the whole world, and for us it’s about doing it in stages, as and when they’re ready.”

Reach’s online safety editor Dr Rebecca Whittington adds, “In the excitement of getting a new device, there will likely be overuse, experimentation and impulsive behaviour, which makes a child or young person more vulnerable to online harm.

“Time is precious, but it is worth putting the safe setup of a new phone at the top of the priority list.”

Tesco Mobile’s top five tips

Here’s how to help your kids stay safe online:

1. **SET UP A CHILD ACCOUNT**
When children get a new device, setting it up with a child account helps you manage parental controls, screen time and app access more easily, and you can change settings as they grow.

2. **USE THE CORRECT AGE**
Make sure your child’s real age is entered on their account. This helps ensure the right safety settings are switched on automatically.

3. **TURN ON SAFETY FILTERS**
Check that safety and search filters are turned on across all search engines to help block inappropriate content.

4. **USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Our Little Digital Helps Toolkit offers free support and guidance, tailored by age group, to help you choose the right controls for your family.

5. **KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING**
Talk regularly about online life and smartphone use. Mealtimes are a great chance to be curious and check in on what your child is enjoying – or finding tricky.

Set up their phone safely with Tesco Mobile’s **Little Digital Helps Toolkit** in partnership with online safety expert Internet Matters

internet matters.org

TESCO mobile
Every little helps

Former WAAF Rene MacLean, 103, shows her General Service Medal to son David; inset, nephew Billy Connolly

Billy's aunt, 103, given medal for wartime service

WAAF Rene's star nephew

BY **ANN FOTHERINGHAM**

BILLY Connolly's 103-year-old aunt has been honoured for her Air Force service during the Second World War.

Rene MacLean joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942. She was posted to the Middle East and served until the end of the conflict.

Now she has been awarded a General Service Medal by Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren in Glasgow City Chambers, days before turning 104.

Rene with medal and Lord Provost

Rene said: "It is lovely to receive it, I wasn't expecting it at all."

Her late husband Neil was the brother of Mamie, mother of star comic Billy, 83. Rene's daughter Verena said: "We're not in touch that much, now that Billy lives in America. The families did get together often when we were younger."

The ex-WAAF keeps a photo album in her Baillieston, Glasgow, home with a mixture of family memories and photos of her time in uniform.

Having grown up in Cardigan, west Wales, Rene was keen to help the war effort and after training in Gloucester, was stationed at sites across England. She recalled: "I was a trained hairdresser, and they chose me because of my trade. It was quite an adventure." In London, she led a team of hairdressers and also met her future husband on a moral leadership course.

They kept in touch during her overseas posting where her duties involved hairdressing for servicewomen, managing local civilian staff and handling tougher issues such as lice. Rene returned to Cardigan after the war, opened a salon and helped found a branch of the Royal Air Forces Association charity.

The couple wed in 1948 and moved to Glasgow in 1951, bringing up sons Peter and David, and Verena. All three joined the Air Force.

Rene added: "I still get out and about when I can. I'm very happy."

Rene with RAFA Glasgow officials, son David and Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren

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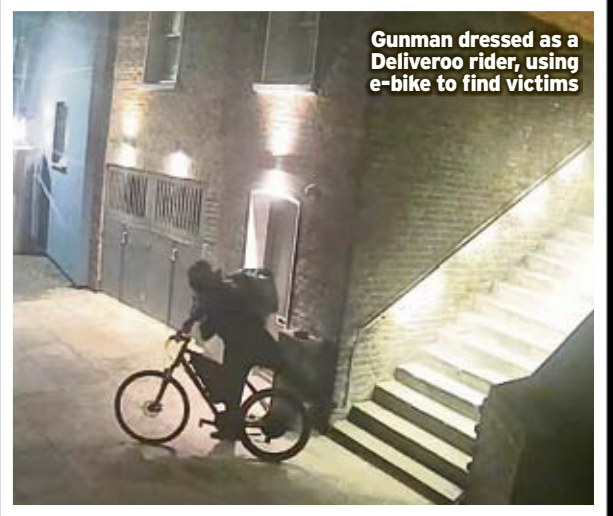
Jazz Reid fired 11 shots at pair in car following birthday celebration

Hitman who shot girl and father jailed



Gunman dressed as a Deliveroo rider, using e-bike to find victims

‘Deliveroo’ gangster gets 38 years for gun attacks

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

A HITMAN disguised as a Deliveroo rider who shot a girl aged eight and her dad has been jailed for 38 years.

Jazz Reid fired 11 shots as the pair sat in a car in Ladbroke Grove, west London, hitting the 34-year-old man five times and his daughter twice. Miraculously, both survived.

Hours earlier, the dad had taken her to a trampoline park for her birthday.

Reid, 33, carried out two other shootings in October 2024 and another the next month, the latter a targeted hit on the same dad.

Firearms

He rode to each on an e-bike, dressed as a Deliveroo rider and carrying the distinctive box used by the food delivery service. Bullets hit the father in his back, chest, abdomen and pelvic area, and the girl was shot in her rear and foot.

Reid was last year found guilty of the attempted murder of the father and of wounding the girl with intent.

He was also convicted of wounding a man aged 27 with intent in Notting Hill and a string of firearms offences.

Michael Goodwin KC, prosecuting, said the motive was a mystery as Reid would not admit or explain his acts.

Old Bailey judge Sarah Whitehouse KC yesterday sentenced Reid to 38 years in jail with a further five years on licence. He was caught after police found the gun used in the car shootings under concrete near his Uxbridge home. Reid claimed it was planted to set him up, as he owed a £10,000 drug debt but DNA on the weapon linked him to the attack. It was also on spent bullet casings.

The mother of the girl and partner of the dad said: “The actions of Jazz Reid have completely shattered both my life and my family’s. The impact on us all remains enormous.

“I have frequent flashbacks and relive that evening every day. I carry the guilt of not being able to protect my little girl...on a day we’d spent surrounded by friends and family celebrating her birthday.”

The woman added: “She is a shadow of the bubbly, bright, larger-than-life character she once was and now rarely wants to go out and socialise, while suffering daily trauma and questioning why it happened.

“My partner has gone from being a happy, active, social man to one who is unable to walk. The pain of seeing him like this is unbearable.” She thanked police “for their hard work”, adding: “Unfortunately, no sentence will ever make up for what Reid did.”

Probe leader Det Insp Richard Scott said: “This was a truly shocking series of crimes...he also took steps to cover his tracks, disposing of mobile phone SIM cards after each shooting.”

Murder probe after woman, 68, dies from stab wound in village

A MURDER investigation is under way following the death of a woman found stabbed at a village cottage.

Gilly Livie, 68, was discovered at an address in Cheriton, near Alresford, Hampshire, on Friday.

A Hampshire Constabulary spokesman said yesterday: “Sadly, despite the best efforts of attending officers and our colleagues in the ambulance service, she was pronounced dead at the scene.

“A postmortem has been carried out and confirmed that Gilly died as a result of a stab wound to the neck.”

The spokesman said that an injured 39-year-old man, who was known to the woman, was also located at the address. He said: “The man had injuries to his neck and leg that were initially described as life-threatening.

“He was taken to hospital where he remains in a stable condition.”

BY **BEN MITCHELL**

Cottage

The force spokesman said that no one else was being sought in connection with the incident.

A neighbour, who did not wish to be named, said: “She’s a housekeeper, she was a lovely lady.”

The quaint cottage, with only a few neighbouring houses, is at the end of a tiny country lane in the village.

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For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	37	+26	2/3 OF THIS	-16	REVERSE THE DIGITS	+18	3/4 OF THIS	-18	÷7	
Intermediate	7	SQUARE IT	+158	2/3 OF THIS	-10	INCREASE BY 75%	÷8	+247	÷5	
Advanced	12	SQUARE IT	+285	6/13 OF THIS	-43	INCREASE BY 60%	+214	4/11 OF THIS	-87	

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
LOTTERY 2 5 22 35 44 54 23
THUNDERBALL 16 17 22 33 39 6

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
EUROMILLIONS
6 10 18 44 47 2 10
THUNDERBALL
9 17 18 21 27 7

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15
6 9 24 30 46 50

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Wednesday:
Should the government do more to help pensioners living in poverty?

YES: 97%
NO: 3%

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	5	1		7	9			3
8			6			9		
		2			1		4	
9	1			4				6
			7			3		
	2	7			4		6	9
1			3			2	7	
	4	6			7	1		8

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9	5	2	8	6	7	4	3	1
7	6	3	4	1	9	2	5	8
2	8	6	5	3	1	9	4	7
1	9	7	6	4	8	3	2	5
4	3	5	7	9	2	1	8	6
6	2	4	9	8	5	7	1	3
3	7	8	1	2	6	5	9	4
5	1	9	3	7	4	8	6	2

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Trustpilot

One shell of a find! Nest of dinosaur eggs uncovered

BY **LEE BULLEN**

A NEST full of dinosaur eggs dating back an incredible 150 million years has been discovered.

The eggs, some of which could contain traces of embryos, were found in cliffs near Lisbon, Portugal.

Based on their shape and shells, experts believe they belonged to a carnivorous dinosaur that roamed the region in the late Jurassic period.

The nest was found by Carlos Natário, of the Torres Vedras Natural History Society, on the cliffs of Santa Cruz Beach.

It is thought the eggs were laid by either a torvosaurus or a lourinhanosaurus. Society director Bruno Camilo said that "almost all the dinosaur hatchlings emerged successfully" based on the shell evidence, adding that there may be traces of embryos still inside some of them. He added: "It is not possible to see a section yet because they're covered in sediment."

Palaeontologists will analyse the eggs with computed tomography (CT) scans to create a three-dimensional model of their interior.

This should help them determine whether any preserved embryo remains still exist.

Cheetahs did prosper...in Saudi Arabia

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

MUMMIFIED remains of seven cheetahs have been discovered in caves after nearly 2,000 years.

The find shows at least two subspecies of the predators inhabited the Arabian peninsula, where they are thought to have become extinct in the 1970s.

They were found along with the skeletal remains of 54 additional cats in five caves near the city of Arar, in northern Saudi Arabia.

Writing in the journal Communications Earth and Environment, researchers say the oldest skeletal remains date from around 4,000 years ago, while the mummified remains date from between 130 and about 1,870 years ago.

Ahmed Boug, of Saudi Arabia's National Centre for Wildlife, said: "The two older cheetahs are similar to the Northwest African cheetah.

"It shows subspecies other than the Asiatic cheetah could support re-establishing cheetahs in Saudi Arabia."

Peek-a-boo...ooh...ohh...

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

SCAMP orangutan Jurang plays up to the camera and gives photographer Alison Allen these delightful shots.

The two-year-old ape was born at Blackpool Zoo with a double hernia which was only corrected after two operations. But he showed no signs of health issues holding him back.

Alison said: "It looks like he is playing peek-a-boo with me and making faces at the viewing window. He looks so happy.

Curiosity

"It's wonderful to see him playing after the rough start he had. It appears he was pulling faces at me and showing me his teeth as I was talking to him and pulling faces back.

"However, baby orangutans press their mouths on windows primarily due to curiosity and a natural instinct for exploration, much like human babies."

Jurang was born in 2023 to dad Kawan and mum Jingga. Together with his half-brother Rufus and females Cherie and Summer, they are known as a buffoonery of orangutans.

Watchful eye is kept on playful Jurang while he explores the outside world

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TALES FROM THE SET

Why Fiennes finds mindful, disturbing horror all the Rage

Edited by **KATHRYN CRAVEN**

Fans had an 18-year wait for the third film in Danny Boyle's post-apocalyptic horror series, so will be delighted the fourth, 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple, lands this week. Starring three-time Oscar nominee Ralph Fiennes, Jack O'Connell, Alfie Williams, Chi Lewis-Parry and Erin Kellyman, The Bone Temple continues on from the Cillian Murphy-led 2002 original and its 2007 and 2025 follow-ups, capturing what life in Britain looks like three decades after the outbreak of the Rage Virus, a violent contagion that led to the rapid breakdown of society.

Fiennes reprises his role as Dr Ian Kelson, who forms a new relationship with potentially world-changing consequences. The star admits the script was disturbing in places.

"Without giving too much away, there are definitely sequences in the film that are horrifying," says the 63-year-old. "I was disturbed reading them. I think Nia (director DaCosta) has handled it brilliantly, the way she's photographed and edited the horror strikes just the right balance, so you're compelled to watch rather than look away."

'Alex Garland's script is quite complex... there are layers'

He adds: "Horror isn't usually my genre, but when a horror film truly plays on your fear and does it well, it taps into something deeply instinctive.

"Alex Garland's script is quite complex. Sure, there's a genre where the horrific moments are exploited purely to scare us, but I'm not keen on that. I like it when there are layers, when the story explores what we're capable of. This isn't just mindless horror, no, it definitely isn't."

The film sees the return of 15-year-old rising star Alfie Williams, whose breakout role was in 28 Years Later, when he took his dying mother (Jodie Comer) to Dr Kelson in the hope of treatment. His character picks up where he left off and finds himself inducted into cult leader Sir Lord Jimmy Crystal's (O'Connell) gang of acrobatic killers.

TRIAL AN ERROR? *Pratt and Ferguson*

COMING SOON

In the near future, a detective (Chris Pratt) stands trial accused of murdering his wife. Also starring Kali Reis, Annabelle Wallis, Chris Sullivan and Kylie Rogers, Pratt has just 90 minutes to prove his innocence to the advanced artificial intelligence judge (Rebecca Ferguson) he once championed, before it determines his fate. Mercy is in cinemas January 23.

SHOPPING & REVIEWS

32 Film reviews
34 Books
35 Podcasts
36 Cash Queen
39 TV Guide
44 Your Letters
PLUS Horoscopes
PLUS Puzzles

BONE IDOL
Ralph Fiennes stars in sequel

FILM YOUR NEXT WATCH

With **DAMON SMITH**

STAR RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★ Good
★★★ Worth a look
★★ Poor
★ Don't bother

GRIEF POWERS ONE NIGHT OF HELL

FRIENDS REUNITED *Affleck and Damon star again*

THE RIP

CERT 15, ON NETFLIX NOW ★★★★

Taking its snappy title from police officer slang for the confiscation of cash, drugs or weapons from criminals, The Rip is an exhilarating crime thriller written and directed by Joe Carnahan, which reunites childhood best friends Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.

The pair trade physical blows and toss verbal grenades with relish as world-weary members of a Miami Tactical Narcotics Team (TNT), who harbour deep-rooted suspicion about each other's devotion to the law.

Most of the testosterone-soaked action is confined to one hellish night but Carnahan opens with the cold-blooded execution of TNT captain Jackie Velez (Lina Esco) in the line of duty by two masked assailants. Her assassination sparks a divisive Internal Affairs investigation and Lieutenant Dane Dumars (Damon) inherits command of her angry, grieving squad which comprises Jackie's not-so-secret lover, Detective Sergeant JD Byrne (Affleck), and detectives "Lolo" Salazar (Catalina Sandino Moreno), Numa Baptiste (Teyana Taylor) and Mike Ro (Steven Yeun).

A tip-off guides Dumars and the squad to a house on a quiet cul-de-sac. The sole occupant, Desi (Sasha Calle) allows officers to enter the property where they discover more than $20million in cash hidden behind a wall. TNT protocol dictates the officers must count the money down to the last dollar at the scene and record an exact total but news of the stunning seizure travels fast and loyalties are strained when cash can easily vanish from the final tally.

Interspersed with pulse-quickening gun fights and chases on foot and four wheels, The Rip is a slickly executed genre piece that delivers every drop of macho posturing you'd expect from the director of Copshop and Narc. Carnahan is well versed in orchestrating bullet-riddled mayhem, heightened using quickfire edits and a bombastic soundtrack.

Damon and Affleck puff their chests and glower with obvious relish while the script slyly cons us into believing we know who to trust. A narrative rug-pull relies on clearly telegraphed logic and Carnahan manoeuvres his characters so if crime does pays, the return on investment is always freshly spilt blood.

THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB

CERT 15, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★★

Reality doesn't simply bite in writer-director Kaouther Ben Hania's harrowing drama based on a shocking real-life incident during the 2024 conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Reality chews cleanly down to the bone and exposes uncomfortable questions about the loss of life and humanity in a warzone.

The film uses a real audio recording of five-year-old Palestinian girl Hind Rajab as she pleads for her life inside her uncle's car after her family is killed by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) emergency call responder Omar A Alqam (Motaz Malhees) learns Hind is trapped in a car under fire and eventually makes contact with the terrified child.

Supported by his supervisor, Rana Hassan Faqih (Saja Kilani), Omar implores ambulance coordinator Mahdi M Aljamal (Amer Hlehel) to send paramedics to rescue Hind. However, any incursion by the PRCS could be met with deadly force by the IDF and as minutes tick by, Hind's chances of survival steadily diminish.

The Voice Of Hind Rajab is a horribly compelling realisation of events on January 29, 2024, which focuses intently on actors' faces as they respond to the genuine audio and attempt to rewrite history so Hind emerges safely.

The 89-minute running time feels like an agonising eternity and Ben Hania pricks consciences by exploring the uneasy cooperation between emergency workers and the same soldiers responsible for destroying Hind's world. Those who take life away have the power to save another.

POIGNANT *Malhees with picture of Hind Rajab*

POWER *O'Connell as Sir Jimmy with his acolytes*

VILLAIN WITH A CROSS TO BEAR

28 YEARS LATER: THE BONE TEMPLE

CERT 18, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

If heaven is a place on Earth then hell must logically exist somewhere on terra firma too. Director Nia DaCosta accepts the directorial baton from Danny Boyle to conjure a gore-slathered purgatory for survivors of the deadly Rage Virus in the fourth chapter of a bloodthirsty horror franchise written by Alex Garland.

Following the events of 28 Years Later, terrified teenager Spike (Alfie Williams) is firmly in the grip of Satanist cult leader Sir Lord Jimmy Crystal (Jack O'Connell), whose acolytes must continually prove their unwavering devotion to the Lord of Darkness.

Meanwhile, Dr Kelson (Ralph Fiennes) continues to honour the fallen at his towering memorial of skulls and bones. The iodine-slathered medic forges a curious connection to Samson (Chi Lewis-Parry) and continued observation of the hulking Alpha reveals a new glimmer of hope for survivors of the contagion.

This fourth chapter is more gory and graphically violent than its predecessor including a protracted torture sequence that depicts helpless victims being flayed alive as so-called "charity". Garland's script applies a tourniquet to the sunnier side of human nature to restrict blood flow to kindness and compassion.

There is no age restriction to the brutality, evidenced in a wince-inducing opening foray that establishes the disposability of onscreen characters. Several fresh faces are introduced purely as meat for the grinder.

Fiennes underscores the quiet dignity of his man of science and he lets loose to Duran Duran in the closest the sequel comes to a demonstration of euphoric release. O'Connell's Jimmy Savile-inspired villainy also induces an occasional discomfiting shudder.

RENTAL FAMILY

CERT 12A, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

Modern families aren't bound by biology or bloodlines. They can be chosen and curated or, as in the case of filmmaker Hikari's quirky comedy drama, manufactured with wholesome and altruistic intent using paid actors.

Phillip Vanderploeg (Brendan Fraser) lives in Tokyo, where he has found fleeting fame as a superhero character in a toothpaste TV commercial. He agrees to work for a rental family agency run by Shinji (Takehiro Hira), which supplies actors posing as surrogate family members, friends and romantic partners to help lonely clients make genuine human connections.

Phillip pretends to be the long-lost father of Mia Kawasaki (Shannon Mahina Gorman) so her mother Hitomi (Shino Shinozaki) can enrol her in a private school. He also poses as a journalist to interview retired actor Kikuo Hasegawa (Akira Emoto), who is suffering with dementia and is a danger to himself.

Rental Family is a charming and offbeat confection, which mines humour and heartwarming sentiment from a business practice that seems rather curious at first glance through cynical western eyes. By the end of Hikari's picture, the value of these agencies is apparent. You can make it by sensitively faking it.

Fraser's sweet-natured likeability provides a clear emotional tether and he confidently navigates Phillip's narrative arc from clueless western outsider to culturally aware ambassador. Newcomer Mahina Gorman is wonderful as the unsuspecting young client, who would be devastated if she ever knew the truth about Phillip's paid role in salving her paternal heartache.

Disappointingly, deep discourse about the potential psychological damage to young Mia is lost in translation.

STAND-IN DAD *Fraser and Mahina Gorman*

TRUE TALES *Missing cat adventure*

MISS MOXY

CERT U, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

The animal magic is simple but sweetly sincere in a Dutch and Belgian co-produced computer animation based on the true story of a tabby cat named Boo, who found her way back home after 13 years. Dubbed into English for family audiences, Miss Moxy treads lightly on its paws when it comes to on-screen violence.

Moxy is the pampered house cat of nine-year-old Josy and her parents, Rudy and Hanna.

During a family holiday to a farmhouse near Lyon, Moxy is catnapped by fame-seeking Rita, who is poised to appear on Animals Got Talent with her tightrope-walking dog Brute.

Josy is heartbroken and returns home without her four-legged soulmate. Meanwhile, Moxy escapes and embarks on an epic trek back to the city using a swallow named Ayo as a wise-cracking satnav perched on her back.

Miss Moxy is a rites-of-passage story that sinks its claws politely into predictable narrative beats and hisses loudly the importance of friendship and self-belief to overcome life's obstacles.

Visuals fall short of The Secret Life Of Pets and other pedigree animated breeds. Cats have coats that conveniently don't ruffle in the breeze, negating any need for the animators to fixate on the realistic movement of fur.

Vocal performances are similarly solid but unremarkable.

Musical numbers are gentle bops and a sub-90-minute running time will be cat nip to parents' ears.

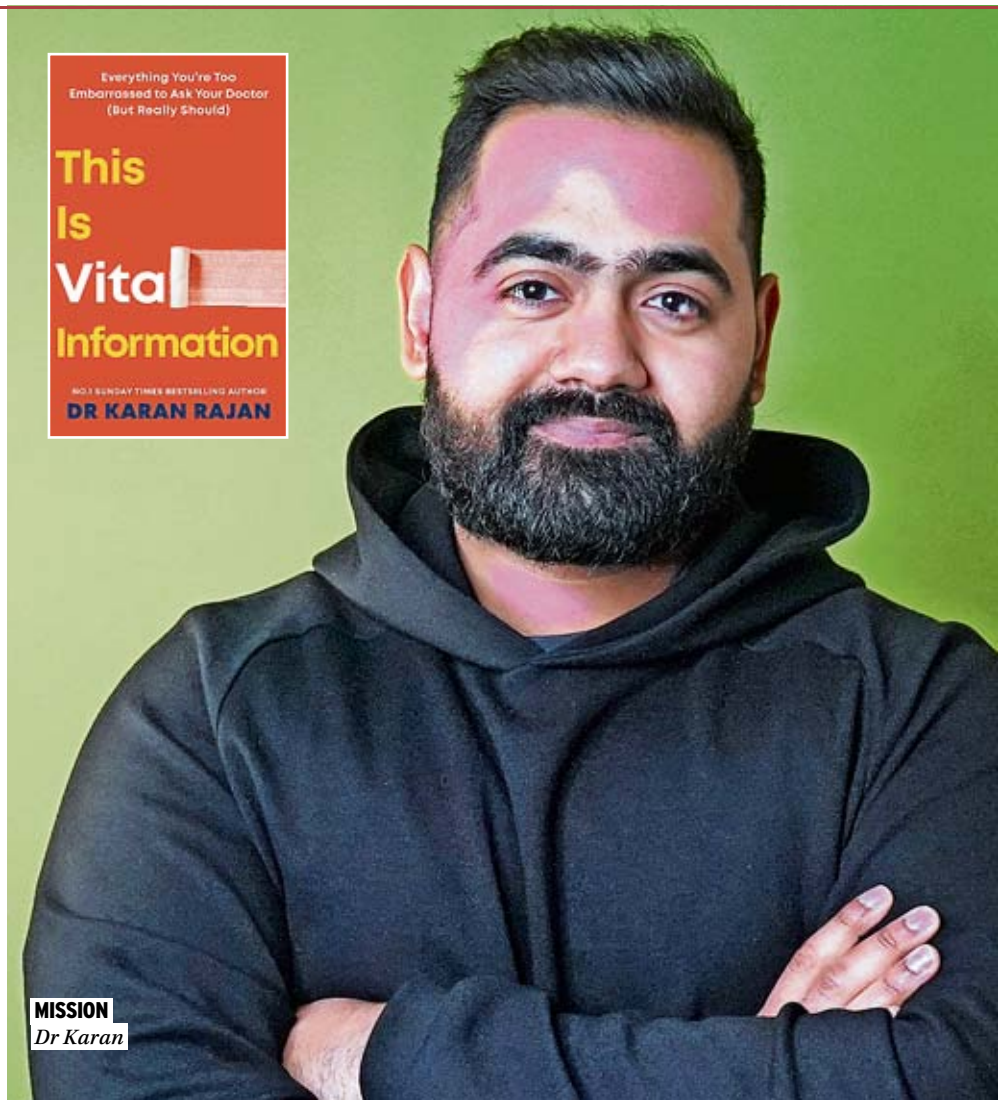
BOOKS YOUR NEXT READ

With **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

AUTHOR OF THE WEEK

Dr Karan Rajan

Seeing patients die from embarrassment was the trigger for the TV doctor's taboo-smashing read



MISSION *Dr Karan*

There are some subjects many of us find hard to talk to doctors about – toilet habits, sexual organs and personal hygiene spring to mind. But we need to face these fears, says surgeon and social media star Dr Karan Rajan, 35, who has more than 10 million followers on social media and regularly appears on TV.

He has followed up his bestselling guide, This Book May Save Your Life, with a new book, This Is Vital Information, which highlights many taboo health subjects, from excessive wind to bad breath and erectile dysfunction.

"The reason I'm concerned about the stigma is not just because they are awkward topics but that people could literally die from embarrassment," he warns.

As well as posting taboo-busting health videos online, he also hosts a podcast, Dr Karan Explores, meeting experts in science and medicine.

The Hampshire-based doctor, who is taking a sabbatical as he and his wife are expecting their first child, says that a combination of factors stop people from visiting their doctor.

"Some bury their head in the sand because if they do raise a flag, it means more tests, more investigations, they may receive bad news that it's a chronic disease, it's cancer, it needs surgery, which may disrupt their lives.

"Sometimes it may be for fear of being judged by other people."

So, what are the biggest subjects that people are reluctant to discuss with their doctor?

BOWEL HABITS

One of the triggers for the book was Dr Karan seeing a patient in clinic on a fast-track cancer referral from their GP.

"The patient was middle aged and had been experiencing rectal bleeding for a number of weeks. On examination, they had a large mass in their abdomen and unfortunately it turned out to be advanced colorectal cancer. The patient passed away not long afterwards.

"They told me that for so many months they were embarrassed about going to see a doctor or talking to anyone about their problems. They'd lost a bit of weight, had been bleeding from their bottom and had become more constipated. All in combination are red flags."

He warns that checking bowel habits is vital, however uncomfortable it is to discuss.

FEMININE HYGIENE

"There's a billion dollar industry where women are marketed to about feminine hygiene products, which are actually detrimental to the vaginal microbiome," he states.

"Medical guidance is that the inside of the vagina should not be washed.

"There's also this aversion to talking about discharge, what it should smell like, what it should look like. So people don't discuss that. They don't know what normal is and they think it needs to smell fresh as a daisy."

One guest on his podcast advised people to smell their underwear regularly to get used to what smells normal and what doesn't.

MALE HANG-UPS

"Most men, when they go down to the pub don't talk about testicular cancer or erectile dysfunction, or prostate issues.

"These are very common issues that affect one in three men – that's a conversation to be had. Most men are not taught how to examine their own testicles, something they should be doing very frequently."

WEIGHT ISSUES

"We've always found ways throughout history on how we can find the route to fastest fat loss or weight loss. It's littered with all sorts of dangerous things, from amphetamines to products which have actually harmed people's heart health. There's a lack of understanding about obesity and nuance around that."

DEATH

Dr Karan says: "Research shows the more we talk about death and mortality, the better the psychological outcomes. We are prepared for life. We've got this stigma talking about death.

"I've seen it at both ends, especially the end of life in the hospital, when most people are scrambling for, 'Do I want CPR? Do I want to be admitted to the ICU?'

"Those should be thoughts you have when you are in good health. As dark as it may seem, proactively planning for the end of your life should be like you're planning your finances.

"What do you want at the end? You don't want someone else to make that decision. You want dignity and autonomy. It's a very weird thing, to talk about death, but there are places around the world where they've got death cafes, people are talking about death and evidence suggests that the better we plan for that, the better the outcomes are.

"In the Western world we think of death as something awful that we want to sanitise and escape [from] as much as we can. But in Eastern philosophy death is just another natural stage of life, it's not a problem with people or doctors."

He says Western doctors may have to be gently pro-active in this field.

"This is the move from preventative medicine to pro-active medicine. It's maybe talking about organ donation."

This Is Vital Information: Everything You're Too Embarrassed To Ask Your Doctor (But Really Should) by Dr Karan Rajan is out now, published by Century, £20

FOUR NEW BOOKS TO READ THIS WEEK

GRACE

BY CHIKA UNIGWE, PAPERBACK, £15.99

Unigwe's latest novel follows a mother, the titular Grace, who hasn't seen her firstborn in 26 years.

The book is split into the past and the present: the younger Grace, when she met a boy at school, fell in love and then fell pregnant, much to the dismay of her parents, and then there is Grace in her current life, married with two children – that is, until her estranged mother reappears.

The novel tackles some big issues facing Nigerian society, but also ones women come up against in general, regarding pregnancy, babies and cultural pressures.

Although the topics are hard hitting, Unigwe, a Nigeria Prize for Literature winner, handles them with care and sensitivity.

Grace also delves into family relationships, the reality of marriage, parents, adoption and class issues.

It's an emotional read, and definitely one that will leave an impact. **9/10**

BEST OFFER WINS

BY MARISA KASHINO, HARDBACK, £16.99

Best Offer Wins centres on Margo, whose determination to secure her dream home gradually tips into morally dubious territory.

Set in the suburbs of Washington DC, the detailed descriptions of unattainable, renovated properties are comically and uncomfortably similar to the UK's housing market. In fact, some readers may struggle to sympathise with a character fighting to buy a £1million-plus property amid a wider housing crisis.

Margo is controlled, cold and often difficult to like, and as the book is told solely from her perspective, there is little relief from her neurotic, self-interested voice, though Kashino provides enough wit and social commentary to make it readable.

The brisk pace certainly makes the book a page-turner, even if some workplace subplots feel slightly unnecessary.

Ultimately, it's a compelling look at status anxiety and ambition. **6/10**

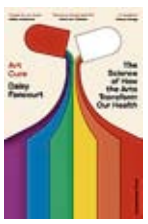
THE TEN YEAR AFFAIR

BY ERIN SOMERS,HARDBACK, £18.99

Sustaining a fantasy affair in your head for a decade sounds like harder work than just going ahead and having the affair. This is the predicament Cora finds herself in. Having left New York with her husband Eliot to raise their babies in a town with fresh air and subpar coffee, she meets Sam at a baby group. Bonding over their shared horror of the other parents and clocking their mutual attraction, instead of jumping into bed, they entwine their families in an awkward friendship.

This "real" timeline – kids on playdates, the grown-ups having dinner, work – runs parallel to the imaginary affair with Sam that's playing out in Cora's head. The problem is, Somers' exploration of the real-life stuff is far more interesting than the passionless imagined affair, which ends up feeling like a dull, extended dream sequence.

Meandering and light on sexual tension, if detailed and smartly drawn, it doesn't quite hold your attention. **6/10**



ART CURE

BY DAISY FANCOURT, HARDBACK, £22

If you've already abandoned your New Year resolutions, don't despair – prescribing yourself a dose of art therapy could banish the guilt and set you on course for a thoroughly enriching 2026, without resorting to a restrictive diet or lifting weights.

Art Cure is the perfect antidote to the worrying insistence by central and local government that creative pursuits are mere hobbies or luxuries not worthy of investment.

Award-winning scientist Daisy Fancourt draws on decades of experiments and reports to demonstrate, in a thoroughly accessible way, how engaging with the arts can make you happier, healthier and more resilient.

The book includes moving case studies and simple tips to get you singing and dancing and creating and appreciating art at your own pace and ability.

You don't even have to be good to benefit – your body and mind will give you a standing ovation for sticking with it. **9/10**

PODCASTS NOW HEAR THIS

With **KAY HARRISON**

SPOT OF DRAMA *Mr Blobby and Noel*

HEAVEN AND HELL FOR PROPER TELLY ADDICTS

MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE WITH JOSH WIDDICOMBE

Josh is branching out in the podcast world, as if the silly success he's seen with Rob Beckett and their Parenting Hell pod weren't enough.

And it's a nicely nostalgic little sideline he's started with some other comedy mates, raking over the strangest bits of popular culture, which leaves you feeling all warm and weird inside.

The rise and fall of Mr Blobby and Noel Edmonds is exhibit number one, with The Last Leg star hurling facts at stand-up, and former roommate, Tom Craine.

The trivia comes thick and fast over the first four episodes, with a reminder of the nation's fleeting obsession with a guy in a spotty suit. Josh gives a thorough breakdown of Noel's bizarre CV and sky-scraping self-belief, going from pirate radio to Radio 1, on to Swap Shop, Crinkley Bottom and opening boxes on telly, all before cosmic disorder strikes and he strops off to New Zealand.

Delightfully triggering old audio is dusted off, leaving you yearning for the 80s and 90s, when cruelty on screens took simpler forms: Gotchas, Beadle's abouting, gunge tanks and casual car crushing.

Hidden camera shows went beyond prank and were closer "to breaking the Geneva Convention", Josh and Tom reason.

OK, at times it can feel like a man reading the best Blobby facts he's just googled, but Wikipedia won't make you laugh this hard. Josh is the sort of arena-packing comedian you can also picture objecting at a local council planning meeting. It's a rare and wonderful thing.

Stock Aitken Waterman is next up, with more coming on Dallas, Ghostwatch, U2, East 17, Mary Whitehouse and the Millennium Dome.

TOP OF THE PROPS *Josh and Fluffball*

And Josh still has the energy for Parenting Hell, now in its 12th series, "fully visualised" for the first time but "still shambolic". Launched in lockdown, it's spawned live tours and a bestselling book, and it's all the better to see them on their pod. Josh using his hastily named kitten, Fluffball, as a prop is bound to grab your attention.

DEEPLY UNIMPORTANT

There's no brain more annoying than a 3am brain. Many podcasts try to lull it to sleep with bedtime stories or different shades of noise, but this new one may beat them all.

Former news anchor Dallas Kachan reels off inconsequential technical material (1954 Singer Sewing Machine Model 201 Operating Manual, the 1922 Western Softwood Lumber Grading Rules), the idea being it overloads you with logic and distracts your mind, called cognitive shunting.

With Dallas's deep, reassuring, Obama-y tone, all mountains revert back to molehills as he feeds your ears Nasa's rigid requirements for space flight, to the millimetre.

It's like you've stumbled into the wrong lecture after an all-nighter, and your seat is near a radiator.

Crucially, adverts are at the start so no danger of being jolted awake being sold a Jet2 holiday, either.

GOOD HANG

The Golden Globes introducing a best podcast award this year was kind of a big deal – and you can't argue with its inaugural winner.

Saturday Night Live star Amy Poehler, who's hosted the ceremony four times, is a natural podcaster – genuine, curious and disarmingly funny as she "hangs" with A-listers, including Ariana Grande, Olivia Colman and Idris Elba.

There's an intimacy in this form that a TV chat show doesn't lend itself to, and you can hear guests relax, opening up to her questioning. It's her attempt to laugh "with people, not at them", she said, picking up her gong off Snoop Dogg.

Gwyneth Paltrow is a fresh guest, after her 10-year silver screen break. They stray way beyond bone broth into conscious uncoupling backlash territory.

Amy's mini interviews with a celeb mate of the main guest are a smart ice-breaker too.

Winter. Available to Pre-order while stocks last Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

PRIMULA VULGARIS RASPBERRY ROSE

While most plants sleep through winter, Primula vulgaris 'Raspberry Rose' provides vibrant colour and structure in the garden. Raspberry-pink flowers with sunny yellow centres rise above a neat evergreen rosette from late winter into spring, ideal for shaded borders, woodland gardens, or patio containers. Hardy to -10°C, it thrives in moist, well-drained soil with part sun or part shade and tolerates cooler sun. Plant in autumn or early spring to establish roots for long-lasting blooms. Supplied as one 1L pot, it is low-maintenance, resilient, and offers intermittent reblooming, making it perfect for UK gardeners seeking reliable early-season interest while supporting pollinators in a naturalistic planting.

- Plant type: Perennial
- Flowering period: January - March
- Position: Part sun / part shade
- Height / Spread in maturity: 20cm/20cm
- Temperatures: Hardy down to -15°C
- Good for: Borders, pots, containers, hanging baskets, pollinators, low-maintenance gardens, ground cover, informal planting, front of beds

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Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard

AMAZON

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Winter Sale

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Track temperatures indoors or outdoors with the Lifemax Solar Window Thermometer 3 Pack. Each unit displays current temperature above daily maximum and minimum on a clear LCD screen, with an arrow showing changes since the last update. The solar panel with battery back up powers the thermometer, updating readings every 8 seconds without frequent battery changes. Its water resistant, rainproof casing allows placement in kitchens, offices, greenhouses or patios. The reversible suction cup secures it to any window or smooth surface. Temperature readings can be shown in °C or °F using soft touch buttons. Supplied as a three pack, it can be placed in multiple rooms or outdoors for convenient temperature monitoring, giving flexible tracking across the home or garden.

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- ✓ Made from biodegradable plastics

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CASH QUEEN BE A SAVVY SHOPPER

Edited by **LAURETTE ZEIMER**

Cool buys to beat the chill

HER

CABLE KNIT SOCKS, *Online Home Shop, was £8, now £6* ***SAVE: £2***

DARE 2B EFFUSED II SKI PANTS, *Go Outdoors, £70, Member's Price £34.97* ***SAVE: £35.03***

OHIO WOMEN'S SNOW BOOTS, *Mountain Warehouse, was £79.99, now £29.99* ***SAVE: £50***

CASUAL JACKET ROLLINS, *Trespass, was £104.99, now £52.99* ***SAVE: £52***

CHAPEL ROCK WATERPROOF COAT, *Seasalt, was £150, now £55.95* ***SAVE: £94.05***

BELLA BRAID POCKET CARDIGAN, *Monsoon, was £80, now £40* ***SAVE: £40***

STRIPED CREW NECK JUMPER ALPACA BLEND, *La Redoute, was £49.99, now £39.99* ***SAVE: £10***

TAKE 5... CATS

1 Emma Bridgewater Tin Caddy *(3.3L), £16, John Lewis* **Best for...** biscuits

2 Cool Cats Multi Colour Double Oven Glove, *£15, Matalan* **Best for...** cooking

3 Mustard Yellow Cat Socks, *£7.50, Next* **Best for...** feet

4 Cat Yoga Magnets, *£13.50, Oliver Bonas* **Best for...** fridges

5 Marvel Washable Doormat, *£11.29, Dunelm* **Best for...** muddy boots

BUDGET OR BUST: HANDHELD VACUUMS

SAVVY
Black & Decker Dustbuster 5.4Wh
£25, Argos

SPEND
Beldray Revo Cordless Handhold Vacuum
£25, Dunelm

SPLURGE
Shark WV270UK Handheld Vacuum
£129, John Lewis

We're still very much in the heart of winter and with cold and rain all around us, we need to keep warm in the right clothes. The tail-end of the sales is still on, so with careful shopping, you can save some cash and keep the whole family toasty. Here are 21 bargains to get you started.

HIM

DUSK III MEN'S SKI JACKET, *Mountain Warehouse, was £99.99, now £39.99* ***SAVE: £60***

YORK BAY PURE WOOL CREWNECK JUMPER, *Marks & Spencer online, was £125, now £87.50* ***SAVE: £37.50***

MEN'S TREKNOW V-NECK VEST, *Seasalt, was £85.95, now £37.95* ***SAVE: £48***

OBASYHIG WOOLLEN HAT, SCARF AND GLOVES SET, *Debenhams, was £25.99, now £14.40* ***SAVE: £11.59***

LOOSE FIT DUFFLE COAT, *La Redoute, was £209.99, now £104.99* ***SAVE: £105***

MAMMUT SAPUEN GORE-TEX WALKING BOOTS, *Go Outdoors, £180, Member's Price £125.97* ***SAVE: £54.03***

KIDS

BOW PRINT HOODIE BLANKET, *Online Home Shop, was £11, now £9* ***SAVE: £2***

FAUX FUR BEAR JACKET (NEWBORN TO 4 YRS), *Marks & Spencer, was £45, now £31.50* ***SAVE: £13.50***

WHISTLER KIDS ADAPTIVE SNOW BOOTS, *Mountain Warehouse, was £44.99, now £19.99* ***SAVE: £25***

FRILL BOW HOODED COAT, *Monsoon, was £58, now £29* ***SAVE: £29***

HEAD JR FZ JUNIOR PANTS, *House of Fraser, was £150, now £30* ***SAVE: £120***

EAT, SLEEP, GAME, REPEAT BEANIE HAT, *Debenhams, was £9.99, now £4.99* ***SAVE: £5***

WARM HOODED PRAM SUIT, *La Redoute, was £49.99, now £24.99* ***SAVE: £25***

**ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS*

TOP 10 PIZZAS

MEATY

American Style Sizzler (460g), Asda, £3.72, 2 for £5 ***SAVE: £2.44***

Goodfella's New York Fully Loaded Pepperoni (532g), Sainsbury's, £4.75, £3 with Nectar ***SAVE: £1.75***

Chicago Town Rapid Slice Beef Kebab (140g), Iceland, £1.75, 4 for £4.80 ***SAVE: £2.20***

Pizza Express Sloppy Giuseppe (292g), Waitrose, was £6, now £3 ***SAVE: £3***

Dr Oetker Ristorante Pizza Pepperoni Salame (320g), Tesco, £3.25, £1.75 with Clubcard ***SAVE: £1.50***

VEGGIE

Market Street Vegetable Supreme (370g), Morrisons, £4, 2 for £6 ***SAVE: £2***

Chicago Town 2 Deep Dish Four Cheese Mini Pizzas (2x148g), Iceland, £1,75, 4 for £4.80 ***SAVE: £2.20***

Mozzarella and Cherry Tomato Taste The Difference (484g), Sainsbury's, £5, £4.50 with Nectar ***SAVE: 50p***

Dr Oetker Ristorante Mozzarella Pizza (335g), Tesco, £3.25, £1.75 with Clubcard ***SAVE: £1.50***

Pizza Express Classic Margherita (245g), Waitrose, was £6, now £3 ***SAVE: £3***

GRAB IT

If you want to take Veganuary to the next level, pick up some veggie-themed dog toys from BARK. Every toy is tested using jaw simulations from different dog breeds, including Chihuahuas, boxers and pit bulls, ensuring safety and durability across all sizes and play styles. The "vegan" range includes Tomatoes Tug Toy (£11.70), Carrot Chew Toy (£9.90) and Peas In A Pod Squeaky Toy (£8.10). All from Amazon.

CLICK & DRY

Getting clothes dry in winter can be a daunting task. Luckily, Beldray (beldray.com) has a large range of drying solutions. These include the Three-Tier Heated Airer with 36 heated aluminium bars and 20m of drying space, holding up to 30kg of laundry (£109.99). A cheaper solution is the Winged Heated Airer with 18 heating bars, 12m of drying space, and a 15kg capacity (was £49.99, now £47.99).

STOCK UP

Co-op has unveiled a delicious Asian-inspired menu for its Served meal-for-two deal, where members can grab a main course and two tasty sides for £8 (£9 for non-members).

There are six new slow-cooked and ready-to-cook main dishes to choose from, with 11 new side options. Highlights include a Katsu Curry with Chicken (485g, normally £5.50) and a Bang Bang Cauliflower Curry (475g, £5.50). Side dishes include Coconut Rice (350g, £2.50) and Duck Spring Rolls (90g, £2.50). The deal is available until February 3.

WHAT'S NEW

With wellness at the front of our minds this month, Lindt has launched the ideal dark chocolate pistachio treat.

The Lindt Excellence Pistachio Dark Bar (100g) combines the finest dark chocolate with caramelised nutty pistachio pieces, enhanced with a perfectly balanced touch of sea salt for a refined chocolate moment.

Available nationwide in Lindt stores and online now, plus Waitrose (£3.50). It's currently on offer for £3 on the Lindt website lindt.co.uk

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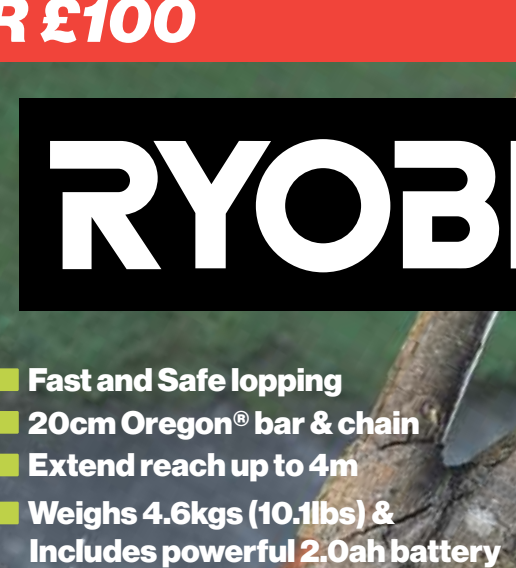

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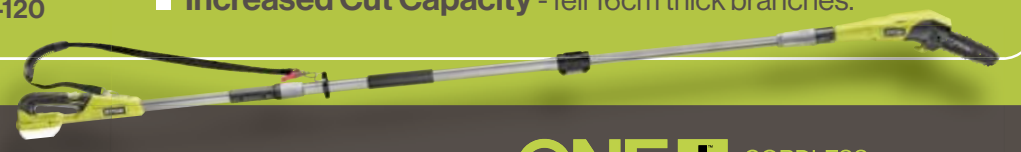

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
DAVID BADDIEL: CAT MAN, C4, 8PM

MONTY DON'S RHINELAND GARDENS, BBC2, 8PM

DO YOU suppose Gardeners' World presenter Monty Don employs a gardener? He must do, surely, to look after his lovely garden at Longmeadow whenever he's away, filming a documentary series such as this one.

He's following one of the world's great rivers, "criss-crossing through frontiers along six different countries, right through the heart of Europe, from the mountains to the sea, travelling almost the entire length of its 800 miles".

That's going to take him a fair while, isn't it? He can hardly just ask Mrs Blenkinsop at No.47 to pop in and water his hydrangeas a couple of times in his absence.

BOWIE AT THE BBC, 11PM, BBC4

DAVID Bowie popped up on the BBC on countless occasions, as this fine compilation reminds us. But it's commonly agreed that his most groundbreaking performance came on Thursday, July 6, 1972, the night he sang Starman on Top Of The Pops.

It's memorable not just because he and guitarist Mick Ronson camped it up something rotten, as if determined to put my dad in coronary care, but because of the kid in the background in the rainbow tank top, shuffling so hilariously awkwardly.

Never noticed him? Take a look tonight. But be warned, once you've become aware of him he can never become unseen.

OVERLOOKED *David speaks out for kitties*

MODERN-DAY CAT WORSHIPPING

DAVID Baddiel makes a really good point in the first of his series on cats. Actually, he makes several. It's a very good show, and very funny, but it also has some bits that make you think. The key point he makes is that cat videos on the internet, daft as they may be, are viewed in their millions, and so the relative paucity of cat-themed TV programmes is rather hard to explain (yes, I could have spelt that "P-A-W-C-I-T-Y, but resisted; I hope you're impressed).

"Why this lack of cats?" David asks. "Well, there are a lot of misconceptions about them: that they're sneaky and lazy and selfish. But what cats actually are is very, very various. Dogs may be generally nice; cats are not generally anything. Every cat is different."

Or almost. If cats do have a common quality, he suggests, it's their apparent aloofness.

Many owners believe that's a positive quality. Among the many people David meets up with – including several cat-owning celebrity pals, such as Jonathan Ross, Josh Widdecombe, Ricky Gervais and Lou Sanders – is Kirsty, the "parent" of pampered King Louis, an eight-year-old British Blue with a huge online following.

"Cats are better than dogs," Kirsty insists, "because you've got to earn their affection."

Comedian Josh agrees. "I like the independence of a cat," he says. "Cats are freelance. Dogs are PAYE."

David's chum and former flatmate Frank Skinner couldn't agree less. "I don't love cats," he admits. "I don't understand why people are proud to have a pet that doesn't apparently like them. I've got this needy relationship with my dog, I need to be greeted when I come home."

David points out he and Frank once owned a cat together. But that's not how Frank saw it.

"We didn't own it together," he insists. "It was your cat, and I lived with you."

To David this revelation comes as a shock.

"I always thought it was our cat," he protests.

They do agree on one thing, it was Frank who gave that cat its name: Chairman Miaow.

Yes, naming a cat after a late dictator: that's never going to be anything less than funny. Ricky Gervais thinks so. "Adolf Kitler," he suggests. David turns that one down.

BEST SOAP

CORONATION STREET, ITV1, 8.30PM

The undertakers deliver Billy's body, and when Summer breaks down in tears, Todd does his best to comfort her. Eva gives Leanne an idea.

BEST STREAM

THE RIP, NETFLIX

Real-life pals Matt Damon and Ben Affleck reunite on screen for this Miami cop thriller from The Grey director Joe Carnahan.

BEST TRAVEL

JANE McDONALD: FROM POLE TO POLE 5, 9PM

"I feel like I'm on the most amazing journey now," says Jane, as she travels from pole to pole. Tonight's episode sees her cruise to Uruguay.

BEST FILM

HOT FUZZ, ITV1, 10.45PM

Edgar Wright lampoons the action genre with Simon Pegg as a cop transferred to a sleepy town, partnered with Nick Frost's naive PC.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain: Holidays The couple whose holiday was ruined by flight cancellations.
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer Featuring properties in the Gower Peninsula, Suffolk and Yardley in Birmingham. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt Roo Irvine hosts from Kelso in the Scottish Borders.
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Father Brown The cleric investigates when rock 'n' roll sensation the Hart Brothers return home to Kembleford.
2.45 Escape to the Country Sonali Shah helps a couple to find a Somerset home. (R)
3.45 Garden Rescue Chris Hull and Lee Burkhill work on a garden in Oldbury. (R)
4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers Briony and JJ help a Glasgow couple declutter their home.
5.15 Pointless With Alexander Armstrong and Gethin Jones.
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.30am I Escaped to the Country The stories of property buyers previously featured on Escape to the Country. (R)
7.15 Garden Rescue Creating a Mediterranean garden. (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Digging for Britain Featuring two finds from an Iron Age hoard. (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
12.30pm Political Thinking with Nick Robinson: Daniel Kebede The journalist in conversation with people who influence our political thinking about what has shaped theirs.
1.00 LIVE Snooker: The Masters Coverage of the third quarter-final on day six at Alexandra Palace in London, played over the best of 11 frames.
5.15 Flog It! The team visits Ickworth House in Suffolk. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Hammed Animashaun, Adam Buxton, Lisa Snowdon and Lorna Watson take part.
6.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Robson, his brother David and uncle Matheson head to the Scottish Highlands.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his dealers are in Port Sunlight on the Wirral.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Stephen Mulhern hosts as Felix tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order, taking on the Banker for the chance to win a life-changing cash prize.
5.00 The Chase Richard, Hayley, Peter and Terri take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz pick the collection of a businessman. (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz get help from James Nesbitt. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Restorations include work on a giant guinea pig hutch. (R)
2.10 Countdown Mark Durden-Smith is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun Jasmine Harman helps civil servant Lisa find a holiday home in southern Alicante. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun In Italy, Rob and Fran are hoping to capitalise on a global fitness craze and bring bootcamps to their glampsite.
5.00 Junior Bake Off The bakers compete for a place in Finals Week on Pastry Day.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Lee Juggurnauth help a couple on the Costa Blanca, Spain.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate on the day's biggest stories, and consumer advice to help viewers save money.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Jean has friends visiting Sainte Victoire, but they are plagued by problems. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Singer Nikki G prepares for an emotionally charged performance after losing her colleague Stevie, and raising 1500 euros for a cancer charity in his honour.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 The Travel Show: How to Have a Great Holiday Nick Knowles takes to the skies above the Grand Canyon, and Alex Polizzi visits the north of Spain. Hosted by Kym Marsh and Richard Arnold; 5 News Update

7

7.00 The One Show JB Gill and Clara Amfo host the magazine show featuring a mixture of chat and stories of interest.
7.30 Would I Lie to You? Comedy panel show, with Meera Syal, Henning Wehn, Martine McCutcheon and Gary Wilmot.

7.00 LIVE Snooker: The Masters Seema Jaswal presents coverage of the fourth and concluding quarter-final on day six at Alexandra Palace in London, played over the best of 11 frames. Coverage continues on BBC4.

7.30 Millionaire Hot Seat Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz where six hopefuls compete for a one-million-pound prize. However, only one player can take their place in the Hot Seat at a time and answer multiple-choice questions.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 The Dorchester Park Lane: A Luxury Hotel The history of the hotel in central London, which has hosted the Beatles, Elizabeth Taylor, Dwight D Eisenhower, Peter Sellers and Britt Ekland (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 The Traitors The traitors' latest gameplay makes the faithful more determined than ever to uncover their identity and the mission puts the traitors under intense pressure, which continues to build at the round table.

8.00 NEW Monty Don's Rhineland Gardens Monty travels across Europe along the Rhine, uncovering connections between four countries, tracing the importance of history and culture in the gardens along its shores.

8.00 Emmerdale Jai is the subject of conversation and April is consoled by her family.
8.30 Coronation Street Leanne and Eva encounter a tearful Megan, Shona and David receive an alarming update and Summer lashes out.

8.00 NEW David Baddiel: Cat Man The comedian and lifelong cat devotee embarks on a nationwide journey to meet extraordinary cats and their owners, exploring how the pets have worked their way into the hearts of millions.

8.00 Tom Read Wilson's Magnificent Journey Tom embarks on a scenic journey through Tuscany in a vintage Lancia, arriving in Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, where he views Botticelli's The Birth of Venus. Last in series.

9

9.00 The Traitors: Uncloaked Ed Gamble dissects all of the action from the latest episode.
9.30 Amanda & Alan's Greek Job Inspired by Gerald Durrell's love of wildlife, Amanda and Alan design their first ever children's bedroom.

9.00 Mystery Road: Origin Jay refuses to write off a suspicious death. Meanwhile, Mary does some sleuthing of her own.
9.55 Saving Lives at Sea In Castletownbere, the crew carry out a dramatic rescue of a fisherman.

9.00 Beat the Chasers Bradley Walsh hosts as Jessica, Liaqat, Stephanie, Jamie and Joanne hope to win big money as they take on the Sinnerman, the Beast, the Governess, the Menace, the Vixen and the Dark Destroyer. (R)

9.00 NEW 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy words-and-numbers quiz, with panellists putting their mental agility to the test. Jon Richardson and Judi Love take on Rob Beckett and Katherine Parkinson.

9.00 Jane McDonald: From Pole to Pole On the first South American leg of Jane's journey, she tours Montevideo to learn about its colonial past and its vibrant present, savouring authentic beef barbecue in a gastronomic hub in the port.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 The Graham Norton Show Idris Elba talks about season two of Hijack, Martin Freeman discusses Agatha Christie's Seven Dials, Erin Doherty talks about the new series of A Thousand Blows and Wunmi Mosaku discusses Sinners. Plus, Olivia Dean performs.

10.00 QI Chris McCausland, Zoe Lyons, Ed Byrne and Alan Davies join Sandi Toksvig for a wet and windy episode, with contestants trying to avoid those inevitable traps.
10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis with Matt Chorley; Weather

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 FILM Hot Fuzz (2007, 15) An overly zealous, by-the-book London policeman is reassigned to a sleepy country village where the crime rate is virtually zero, and teamed up with an eager but dimwitted partner. But just as the officer's uneventful new environment begins to chafe, a grisly series of so-called accidents gives him reason to suspect a strange conspiracy is afoot. Action comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. ★★★★

10.00 Taskmasterclass Greg Davies and Alex Horne examine the state of comedy in modern-day Britain using highlights from Taskmaster, featuring Romesh Ranganathan, Mel Giedroyc and Liza Tarbuck.

10.00 Holidaying in the 70s: Wish You Were Here! The rise of the package holiday in the 1970s, discovering how Brits swapped staycations for fun in the Mediterranean sun, taking advice from TV travel shows. (R)

11

11.30 FILM The Blackening (2023, 15) Premiere. Seven friends go away for the weekend and end up trapped in a cabin with a killer who has a vendetta. He forces the group to play board game The Blackening, which punishes losing players. Director Tim Story's comedy horror, starring Grace Byers and Jermaine Fowler. ★★★

11.00 FILM Lollipop (2024, 15) A woman recently released from prison struggles to regain custody of her children. Joining forces with her childhood friend, they take destiny into their own hands. Drama, starring Posy Sterling. ★★★

11.05 FILM Central Intelligence (2016, 12) A rogue CIA agent turns to an old classmate for help when he is targeted by his own organisation. Action comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson, Melissa McCarthy and Kevin Hart. ★★★★

11.30 NEW Piers Morgan: Uncensored A selection of opinion-led highlights from the presenter's YouTube show, blending interviews, debates and personal commentary on the headline stories that are getting people talking.

12 MIDNIGHT

1.00am Weather for the Week Ahead **1.05-6.00am** BBC News. A round-up of the latest headlines.

12.35am Snooker: The Masters – Extra. Extended highlights of a quarter-final. **2.35** Sign Zone: Why are Vet Bills so High? – Panorama (R) **3.05** Sign Zone: Lucy Worsley's Victorian Murder Club (R) **4.05** Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R) **4.35-6.35am** This Is BBC Two

12.40am Millionaire Hot Seat. Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz where six hopefuls compete for a one-million-pound prize. (R) **1.05** Shop on TV **3.00** Tour de Fred – Ireland: Part Deux. Fred Sirieix cycles around Co Waterford. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

1.05am FILM Good Boys (2019, 15) Three lads skip school and embark on an epic journey while attempting to make their way home for a party. Comedy, with Jacob Tremblay. ★★★ **2.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **3.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) **3.45-6.05am** Four in a Bed (R)

1.00am PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) **3.50** Susan Calman's Grand Week by the Sea (R) **4.35** The Wonderful World of Chocolate (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.35** Olivia Meets Her Match **9.30** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Nicole tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Shannon's lawsuit takes a turn.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Former Islanders get another shot at finding the one.

10.05 Family Guy Triple bill.

11.35 American Dad! Animation.

12.05am American Dad! **12.35** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** In with a Shout **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Gameshow.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Adil Ray hosts the game in which three pairs of contestants must use their skills to try and find words from the fewest letters possible.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow – Celebrity Special The comedian returns with the programme in which some of the nation's all-time favourite gameshows are rebooted, beginning with an edition of Play Your Cards Right. Athlete Mo Farah, presenter Clare Balding, comedian Russell Kane and actor Jimi Mistry play the higher or lower game to be in with a chance of turning the cards in the Epic Endgame and winning the jackpot for their chosen charity.

10.00 Tipping Point Double bill.

12.00m't Tipping Point **12.55** Tenable **1.50** Unwind **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The day's news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Waterloo Road Double bill. Donte falls victim to Izzy's rage; Shola notices an unexpected change in Portia and a surprise Ofsted inspection sees Darius bend the rules to keep ahead of the inspectors.

9.30 FILM The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014, 12) Katniss Everdeen becomes the figurehead of a revolution against the despotic Panem regime. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Philip Seymour Hoffman. ★★★★

11.20 FILM The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2 (2015, 12) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence. ★★★★

1.25am Top Gear. From 2010. **2.35** Top Gear Vietnam Special **3.45-4.00am** Press X on the BBC

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm TOTP: 1999 Jamie Theakston presents the pop chart programme.

7.30 TOTP: 1999 Music by M People, Mirrorball and Soulsearcher.

8.00 LIVE Snooker: The Masters Further coverage of the fourth and concluding quarter-final on day six at Alexandra Palace in London.

10.00 TOTP: 1986 Mike Read and Dixie Peach present music by Fine Young Cannibals, Dire Straits, A-ha, Mr Mister, Pet Shop Boys and Cherrelle and Alexander O'Neal.

10.30 TOTP: 1997 Nicky Campbell presents the pop chart programme.

11.00 Bowie at the BBC Clips from the BBC archive giving an overview of Bowie's career from 1964.

12.00m't David Bowie at the BBC Radio Theatre **1.00** David Bowie: Finding Fame **2.30** TOTP: 1999 **3.00** TOTP: 1999. Classic chart-toppers. **3.30-4.00am** TOTP: 1986

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Lee Anderson's Real World Lee Anderson brings his Real World show to the Great British public.

8.00 Friday Night with Matt Goodwin Matt Goodwin explores how to fix the problems facing the country.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Discussion and debate.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Lee Anderson's Real World Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.15** James May's Things You Need to Know **7.50** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.50** Guy Martin's Wall of Death: Live **11.00** Rick Stein's India **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's India The chef enjoys Parsee hospitality in Mumbai and learns about their contribution to Indian cuisine.

7.00 QI Linda Smith and Mark Gatiss guest.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL With Alan Davies, Rosie Jones, Josh Widdicombe and Susan Calman.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You

11.00 Taskmaster Alex Horne risks the wrath of his fierce employer Greg Davies with a cheeky unsanctioned task.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** Would I Lie to You? At Christmas **2.00** Not Going Out **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** The Bill **8.20** Doctors **9.30** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born Arthur Smith makes his annual visit to Grantleigh.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill. Foggy decides to go trekking across the moors; Howard takes drastic measures.

8.00 Father Brown Double bill. The priest sets out to solve the murder of a local aeronautics magnate's son; the clerical sleuth encounters a voodoo priest.

10.00 New Tricks The team investigates a man's disappearance five years earlier.

11.20 Waking the Dead Stella discovers the truth about the murdered child.

12.35am Hotel Portofino **1.50** One Foot in the Grave. Classic comedy. **2.35** To the Manor Born **3.10** Whitstable Pearl **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Four episodes.

8.00 The World's Biggest Cruise Ship The construction and launch of cruise ship Icon of the Seas, which has been crowned the world's biggest cruise ship.

9.00 Gogglebox Omnibus of the two part-special for Stand Up to Cancer.

10.00 FILM Prey (2022, 15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Amber Midthunder. ★★★★

11.55 Naked Attraction Singletons from Kent and Basingstoke take part.

1.00am Gogglebox: Celebrity Special **2.00** The World's Biggest Cruise Ship **3.00** Naked Attraction **3.55** The Goldbergs **4.50-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.00** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw go on a trip to Cambridgeshire to pick up their very first supercar, a British-made rare 1989 Ultima race car.

7.55 The Dog House Londoners Roshni and Jay meet two different dogs – Bella the playful Staffie and Cech the shy but cuddly terrier. Funeral workers Amy and Alex want to rescue a dog in need.

9.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

11.05 999: On the Front Line In Warwickshire, a man falls from a horse, which then falls on him, while an intoxicated man overdoses on paracetamol, but would rather have another drink than go to hospital.

12.10am The Gulf **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Wales at Six; Weather **7.00-7.30** Vanished Wales. Featuring Victorian streets demolished for a shopping centre. **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia. The latest headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country. A round-up of the latest headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cwpwrdd Epic Chris **12.30** Heno **1.00** Cymry ar Gynfas **1.25** Y Cyfweliad **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Cynefin **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Adeiladu'r Freuddwyd: Camp Out West. Cameras follow Jon and Emilie's journey, as they build a dream in west Wales. **6.30** Y Deis. Teams from Pontypridd; Aberystwyth and Cardiff; and Maldwyn compete. **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno. Nightly magazine with stories from all over Wales and special guests. **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **7.50 LIVE** Clwb Rygbi. Dragons v Newcastle (kick-off 8.00pm). **10.05** Priodas Pum Mil. Organising a wedding in Dyffryn Nantlle. **11.05-11.40pm** Antur Itera Tim Lowri Morgan

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **Tennis** WTA and ATP Tours, including the ATP Adelaide Open, ATP Auckland Open, WTA Adelaide Open, and WTA Hobart Open. **6.30** Sky Sports News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **7.30** LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Dubai Invitational. Day two of the tournament, which takes place at Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club. **12.30pm** LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** England v Pakistan. Coverage of the Group C match in Harare, Zimbabwe. **3.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket. Ben Stokes' superb century. **3.20** LIVE **SA20** MI Cape Town v Sunrisers Eastern Cape. Coverage of the match from Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town. **7.00** The Transfer Show. The latest transfer news. **7.30** LIVE **EFL** West Bromwich Albion v Middlesbrough (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Championship match from The Hawthorns. **10.30** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Sony Open in Hawaii. Coverage of day two of the tournament. **3.00-6.00am** Sky Sports News. Headlines.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League **7.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **7.10** Big Bash League **8.10** LIVE **Big Bash League** Sydney Sixers v Sydney Thunder. Coverage of the T20 match. **11.30** LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** England v Pakistan. The Group C match. **3.00pm** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket. Ben Stokes' century. **3.20** LIVE **SA20** MI Cape Town v Sunrisers Eastern Cape. From Newlands Cricket Ground. **7.00** Big Bash League **8.00** WPL **9.00** SA20 **10.00** Big Bash League **11.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup **2.00am** Big Bash League **5.20** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **5.30** Best of England v South Africa **5.45-6.00am** Best of ICC WT20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL Cup Retro **8.00** SPFL: Old Firm Derby Best Goals **8.30** SPFL: Edinburgh Derby Best Goals **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** Championship Season Review **11.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL Trophy Football **12.00noon** EFL Highlights **12.15** SPFL Highlights **12.30** Bundesliga Weekly **1.00** Bundesliga Highlights **2.00** SPFL Round-Up **2.15** SPFL Highlights **2.45** EFL Highlights **4.00** Bundesliga Weekly **4.30** EFL League One Goals **5.00** WSL **5.30** EFL Highlights **5.45** SPFL Highlights **6.00** Scottish Football VAR Review **6.30** SPFL **6.45** SPFL Highlights **7.00** EFL Highlights **7.30** LIVE **EFL** West Bromwich Albion v Middlesbrough (kick-off 8.00pm). **10.30** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** Retro League One **2.45** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00-6.00am** Best Scottish Premiership Goals

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **6.30** DP World Tour Golf. The Dubai Invitational. **7.30** LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Dubai Invitational. Day two of the tournament. **12.30pm** PGA Tour Golf **3.30** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **4.00** DP World Tour Golf **5.00** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Sony Open in Hawaii. Coverage of day two of the tournament. **3.00am** PGA Tour Golf **5.00** The Open Zone **5.30-6.00am** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips

TNT SPORTS 1

7.45am Reframe the Game **8.00** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights. From the 12th round. **8.30** LIVE **Isuzu UTE A-League** Melbourne City v Auckland FC (kick-off 8.35am). At AAMI Park. **10.30** The Monuments. The latest episode. **11.00** LIVE **Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Coverage of the super-G in the latest World Cup meeting of the season in Wengen, Switzerland. **1.30pm** LIVE **Snooker Masters** Coverage of the third quarter-final on day six at Alexandra Palace in London, played over the best of 11 frames. **4.30** Inside Serie A **5.00** The Fantasy Show **5.30** PL Preview **6.00** Adobe Women's FA Cup **7.00** LIVE **Adobe Women's FA Cup** Newcastle United v West Ham United (kick-off 7.30pm). **10.00** UEFA Champions League Magazine **10.30** PL Preview **11.00** Fantasy Show **11.30** UEFA Champions League – Classics **1.00am** Premier League Preview **1.30** Adobe Women's FA Cup **2.30** UEFA Champions League Magazine **3.00** UEFA Champions League – Classics **5.00-6.30am** LIVE **SailGP** The first day in Perth, where the first round of the season takes place.

TNT SPORTS 2

8.00am LIVE **A-League Women** Western Sydney Wanderers v Brisbane Roar (kick-off 8.00am). **10.00** Adobe Women's FA Cup **11.00** Serie A **12.00noon** LIVE **UEFA Conference League** Coverage of the knockout phase play-off draw. **12.30** Reload **12.45** Kenny Allstar's Number 1's **1.00** LIVE **Snooker Masters** Coverage of the third quarter-final on day six at Alexandra Palace. **4.30** Fencing Grand Prix **5.30** TNT Sports Cricket Reload **6.45** Original Documentary **7.00** LIVE **Snooker Masters** Coverage of the fourth and concluding quarter-final on day six. **10.30** Reload **11.00** Isuzu UTE A-League **1.00am** One Day International Cricket **3.00** The Fantasy Show **3.30** Serie A **4.30** Documentary **5.00-5.30am** UEFA Champions League – Classics

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.25pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Doc Martin **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **2.00-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Minder **9.05** Magnum, PI **10.10** Kojak **11.15** Boon **12.20pm** The Professionals **1.30** LIVE ITV Racing: Windsor. Coverage from Windsor, Newcastle and Market Rasen. **4.00** LIVE World Series of Darts. The Bahrain Masters. Day two from Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, featuring the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final. **8.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.00** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite **12.05am** Dark Side of the Ring **1.00** The Professionals **1.55** The Protectors **2.25** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Amazing Cleans **10.00** Rich Kids Go Skint **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** 999: Critical Condition **10.00** Trauma Room One **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **2.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **3.35-4.00am** Car Pound Cops

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Angus Ashworth: Yorkshire Heritage Hero **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Unsellable Houses. Lyndsay and Leslie bring curb appeal to a confusing rambler that isn't visible from the road. **10.00** My Lottery Dream Home **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.10** Trucking Hell **9.25** Police Interceptors **11.30** FILM The Kentuckian (1955/PG) ★★★ **1.35pm** FILM Will Penny (1967/12) ★★★★ **3.55** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** FILM Cliffhanger (1993/15) Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. ★★★★ **11.15** Banged Up Abroad: Crime & Punishment **12.15am** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.15** Ice Road Truckers **2.20** Trucking Hell **3.20** Winter Road Rescue **3.50-4.00am** Entertainment News on 5

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Classic FM Live: Hall of Fame 2023 **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Jamie Foxx **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Julie Andrews Forever

Live EFL
Sky Sports Main Event, 7.30pm
Aune Heggebø (left) and West Brom need to start picking up points if they are to get into the mix for a play-off place. They face a tough fixture tonight against promotion-chasing Middlesbrough.

3.00 Skinner & Mina's Literary Road Trip: Pope & Swift **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Ryan Gosling **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** Guy Garvey: From the Vaults **9.00** FILM Luther: Never Too Much (2024/15) The life of soul singer Luther Vandross, from childhood musical talent to worldwide fame. Contributors include Jamie Foxx and Mariah Carey. ★★★★★ **11.00** Luther Vandross at the Royal Albert Hall **12.50am** Pet Shop Boys: Dreamworld – The Greatest Hits: Live in Copenhagen **3.10** Greatest Albums Live **4.35** Inside Art **5.00-6.00am** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting

U&GOLD

7.35am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.10** The Green Green Grass **8.50** Dad's Army **9.30** Are You Being Served? **10.10** Porridge **10.50** Keeping Up Appearances **11.30** Last of the Summer Wine **12.50pm** The Green Green Grass **1.30** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **2.10** Dad's Army **2.50** Are You Being Served? **3.30** Porridge **4.10** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.50** Last of the Summer Wine **6.10** Keeping Up Appearances **6.50** Porridge **7.30** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **8.00** Blackadder Goes Forth **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.30** Blackadder Goes Forth **12.30am** Men Behaving Badly **1.05** Blackadder Goes Forth **3.00** Men Behaving Badly **3.30-4.00am** The Green Green Grass

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Downfall **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Downfall **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** 'Allo 'Allo! **10.00** Bangers & Cash **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis: The Downfall

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** I, Jack Wright. Sally begins the formal process of challenging the will. **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** An Idiot Abroad **10.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Winter Special **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** The Force: Manchester **1.00** Brit Cops: Rapid Response **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Fish Town **7.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.20** The Sopranos **12.30pm** Game of Thrones **2.50** The Wire **4.00** Westworld **5.35** Deadwood **6.45** Game of Thrones **9.00** House of the Dragon **10.20** Deadwood **11.25** The Sopranos **2.40am** Game of Thrones **5.00-6.00am** The Guest Wing

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Send in the Dogs **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **10.00** Matlock **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** The Good Doctor **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** Send in the Dogs

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.45** Ballers **4.00** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Chris Rock: Bigger & Blacker **10.15** And Just Like That **11.00** Community **12.00m't** Entourage **1.10** Ballers **2.20-3.40am** Curb Your Enthusiasm

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **8.00** Gold Rush **9.00** Expedition Files **10.00** Animals on Drugs **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Expedition Files **2.00** Animals on Drugs **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Europe from Above: Engineering **9.00** Air Crash Investigation: Special Report **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation: Surviving Disaster **2.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Hitler's Last Stand **4.00** Viking Seas: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Disaster Autopsy **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Toronto Airport Uncovered **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Abandoned **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Sharks Attack

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Dean McCullough **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Radio 1 Anthems with Vicky and Lauren **11.00** Group Chat with Nat and Vicky **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Sam and Danni **3.00** Dance Party Starters with Sam and Danni **4.00** The Official Chart with James Cusack **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dance Party with Danny Howard **8.00** Future Dance with Sarah Story **10.00** Pete Tong **12.00m't** Essential Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Dance Presents **3.00** Danny Howard's Club Mix **4.00** Dance Party Starters **5.00-6.00am** Happy Anthems

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco **11.00** The Rock Show with Shaun Keaveny **12.00m't** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00** Tony Blackburn's Sounds of Soul **2.00** Pick of the Pops **4.00** Radio 2 in Concert: Generation X and Eddie and the Hot Rods **5.00-6.00am** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Gottschalk **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night. Disney music.

CHOICE
Friday Night Is Music Night
Radio 3, 7.30pm
To mark 100 years since the creation of the Walt Disney Studio, the King's Singers join the BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor James Henshaw at Saffron Hall. They will be playing classical and original music from Disney films including *Peter Pan, Dumbo, Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

9.45 The Essay: Five Kinds of Amadeus **10.00** Late Junction **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** Desert Island Discs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Food Programme **11.45** Piccadilly **12.00noon** News **12.04** AntiSocial **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Spores **2.45** Materials of State **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** Short Works **4.00** Last Word **4.30** More or Less **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** The News Quiz **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Screenshot **8.00** Any Questions? **8.55** This Week in History **9.00** Free Thinking **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Cyberiad **11.00** Americast **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Piccadilly **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.30** News Summary **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Materials of State

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles **1.00pm** Elis James and John Robins **2.00** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 72+ **9.30** The Commentators' View **10.00** Connor Phillips **1.00am** Laura McGhie **5.00-6.00am** 5 Live Boxing

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am News **6.05** Wake Up **6.31** Walescast **7.00** Breakfast **9.00** Lucy Owen **12.00noon** The Phone In **2.00** Eleri Sion **5.00** Drive **6.30** Books That Made Me with Lucy Owen **7.00** Elin Fflur's 70s Playlist **8.00** Elin Fflur's 80s Playlist **9.00** Elin Fflur's 90s Playlist **10.00** Friday Night H **12.00m't** Party Playlist **1.00-7.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Classic FM at the Movies with Jonathan Ross **9.00** Opera Villains with Sir Bryn Terfel **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00-7.00am** Sam Pittis

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** 80s with Claire Sturgess **10.00** Sophie K **4.00-8.00am** Jennie Longdon

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Ten Tall Men (1951/U) Foreign Legion comedy adventure, starring Burt Lancaster and Kieron Moore. ★★★
12.55pm Gunman's Walk (1958/PG) Western, starring Van Heflin and Tab Hunter. ★★★
2.50 Tobruk (1967/PG) Second World War drama, starring Rock Hudson. ★★★
5.05 Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960/U) Robin Hood adventure, starring Richard Greene and Peter Cushing. ★★
6.55 The Adjustment Bureau (2011/12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon. ★★★★
9.00 The Great Wall (2016/12) Fantasy adventure, starring Matt Damon. ★★★
11.05 John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum (2019/15) Action thriller sequel, starring Keanu Reeves and Halle Berry. ★★★
1.40-3.35am Pixie (2020/15) Crime comedy, starring Olivia Cooke and Fra Fee. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

7.00am A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★
8.45 Smurfs (2025/PG) See 6.20pm. ★★★
10.25 The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
12.10pm Friendship (2024/15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Kate Mara. ★★★★
1.55 Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
4.40 Borderline (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★
6.20 Smurfs (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★
8.00 The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) Comedy, written by and starring Tim Key and Tom Basden, with Carey Mulligan. ★★★★
9.45 Sinners (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★
12.05am 28 Years Later (2025/15) Horror sequel, starring Jodie Comer. ★★★★
2.05 Borderline (2025/15) See 4.40pm. ★★★
3.45 Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg. ★★★
5.45-6.30am Sky Cinema Preview-Jan 2026

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.50pm Drift (2023/15) Drama, starring Cynthia Erivo and Alia Shawkat. ★★★
6.25 Jungleland (2019/15) Drama, starring Charlie Hunnam and Jack O'Connell. ★★★
8.00 Empire of the Sun (1987/PG) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, with Christian Bale and John Malkovich. ★★★★
10.45 Quadrophenia (1979/18) Drama, with Phil Daniels and Leslie Ash. ★★★★
1.00am Beach Rats (2017/15) Powerful drama, with Harris Dickinson. ★★★★
2.55 Drift (2023/15) See 4.50pm. ★★★
4.40-6.40am Burning an Illusion (1981/15) Drama, with Cassie McFarlane. ★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.25pm Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003/U) Adventure sequel, with Daryl Sabara. ★★★
6.00 Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004/PG) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. ★★★★
8.00 The Wizard of Oz (1939/U) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. ★★★★★
9.50 Grow (2025/PG) Comedy, starring Golda Rosheuvel and Priya-Rose Brookwell. ★★★
11.50 Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009/PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. ★★★
1.30am Blueback (2022/PG) Drama, starring Mia Wasikowska and Eric Bana. ★★★
3.20 Breaking Point (2023/12) Drama, starring Kelvin Clarke and Karam Singh. ★★★
5.15-7.30am Ride On (2023/PG) Action drama, starring Jackie Chan and Liu Haocun. ★★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.10pm Forbidden (1949/PG) Thriller, starring Douglass Montgomery. ★★★
5.55 The Wicked Lady (1945/PG) Costume drama, with Margaret Lockwood. ★★★★
8.00 Z Cars Vintage police drama.
9.05 The Omega Factor Sci-fi drama.
10.20pm Burke & Hare (1972/15) Horror, with Derren Nesbitt and Glynn Edwards. ★★★
12.15am Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense A businessman leaves a video will.
1.45 The Silent Partner (1978/18) Crime thriller, starring Elliott Gould. ★★★
3.55-5.30am House on Haunted Hill (1959/12) Horror, starring Vincent Price. ★★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder Part two of two.
5.00 Murder, She Wrote Whodunit.
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye Crime drama.
7.00 Castle American crime drama.
8.00 Unforgettable Crime drama series.
9.00 Garage Sale Mysteries: The Deadly Room (2015/PG) Drama, starring Lori Loughlin and Sarah Strange. ★★
10.55 An Aurora Teagarden Mystery: A Game of Cat and Mouse (2019/PG) Whodunit, starring Candace Cameron Bure. ★★
12.50am Lies and Deception (2005/15) Thriller, starring Madchen Amick. ★★
2.30 Deviant Love (2019/PG) Thriller, starring Emma Bell and Nick Ballard. ★★★
4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye

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FARES FROM (pp)	£1,259	£1,599	£2,249	£2,799

BORDEAUX & BEYOND

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	INSIDE	OCEAN VIEW†	BALCONY	SUITE
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	INSIDE	OCEAN VIEW†	BALCONY	SUITE
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SPRING DELIGHTS OF THE CANARIES & MADEIRA

14 Nights 05.03.28 25.03.28 — *Ambience Ambition* — **London Tilbury – Oporto (from Leixões) – Funchal – Santa Cruz de La Palma – Las Palmas, Gran Canaria – Arrecife – Santiago de Compostela (from Vigo) – London Tilbury**

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Email: expressletters@express.co.uk (include your full name, address and telephone number)

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Democracy has died in Keir Starmer's Britain

THE Keir Starmer Labour Government is showing its contempt for the public by stopping the local elections at many councils in May ("Labour's 'disgraceful attack on democracy' denies 4 million people vote", January 15).

Up to four million voters will be denied a democratic voice at the ballot box which would have been damning on his government.

Mark Twiddy,
Forest Gate, Gtr London

Here's a U-turn we'd all love to see – PM quits

ANOTHER week, another ill-thought-out policy reversed by Sir "Dreary" Starmer and his equally inept Cabinet ("'Humiliating'... PM U-turns on digital ID cards", January 14).

However there is one decision he will not change, that is to remove his head from his backside so he can actually see what is going on in our country and what his Government is doing to it.

We live in hope.

Allan Bone,
Dawlish, Devon

Spend digital ID millions on more police officers

NOT going forward with the digital ID scheme is just simple common sense. I am a retail worker and I have to ask for ID every day when someone buys items such as knives or alcohol. Anything digital or on a phone is the ultimate no-no. Far too vulnerable to manipulation or hacking. Has to be the real thing, like a driving licence.

The money saved from scrapping digital IDs should be invested in more police. The surest way to crack and deter organised crime.

John Barstow,
Pulborough, W Sussex

Wealth creators scarper and they'll never return

SO OUR useless Government is backtracking on one thing after another. Does it not realise that a lot of successful British entrepreneurs have moved away from the UK and settled elsewhere and will probably never move their businesses back to the UK again?

Patricia East,
Guildford, Surrey

Our leader couldn't run a bath, never mind Gaza

KEIR Starmer is expected to join a team to oversee bringing peace to Gaza under Donald Trump's plan ("Sir Keir 'will help govern Gaza' with US leader", January 14).

This must be a joke as Prime Minister Starmer cannot run his own country, never mind trying to sort out another.

Joan Parker,
Waddington, Lincs

Daily Express nails tragic tales of total incompetence

PAGE after page of Labour incompetence is an everyday read in the Daily Express. In just one day we had pensioner poverty, the U-turn on digital IDs, David Lammy's plan to scrap jury trials, Lord Mandelson finally apologising to Jeffrey Epstein's victims, the net zero farce, the list goes on.

Thankfully the Daily Express is on the case in support of the majority that want a general election as soon as possible, it's so desperate now that people have written to the King asking him to dissolve Parliament.

When will it end?

David Hardman,
Morley, Derbys

Older drivers seen as a cash cow for Whitehall

IF THIS Government passes the necessary legislation to include mandatory eyesight checks for over-70s and a reduction in the drink-drive limit, will it also include performing U-turns in the driving test as compulsory while it is at it ("Over-70s may face 'insulting' bills for driver eyesight test", January 15)?

Rod Taylor,
Marsden, W Yorks

Go after uninsured and unlicensed, not over-70s

ONCE again this Government wants to hit the elderly motorists, or anyone elderly who has paid their way in life, despite statistics saying younger drivers are the main risk on the road.

Current estimates state that there are 300,000 uninsured vehicles on the road and 800,000 unlicensed drivers, something that Government ministers should consider addressing when talking about road safety.

Only recently, Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced a one-off £150 benefit to help with energy costs to those on benefits.

Along with the migrants, they have to stay warm while watching daytime TV, incurring a significant cost to the Government that far outweighs the savings it said it had to make because of the economic black hole when it took away millions of pensioners' winter fuel allowance.

Michael Redwood,
Bristol

Motorists have had their fill of dodgy pothole work

I UNDERSTAND that yesterday was National Pothole Day ("Potholes only good news for tyre manufacturers", Letters, January 14).

I wonder what substance will be used to fill the nation's potholes this year, will it be candy floss, marshmallow or papier-mache? Whatever it is, it will once again be ineffectual.

Martin Lawrence,
South Croydon, Gtr London

A red card offence from Israel fan ban police chief

YESTERDAY'S Daily Express editorial suggests the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police Craig Guildford "should have engaged his brain" before banning Israeli fans attending the Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv Europa League match last November ("Chief is unfit for office", January 15).

His outrageous actions suggest Guildford needs a brain to engage.

Michael Locke,
Gillingham, Kent

Pie and mighty staycation lives long in the memory

LYNNE English's memories of caravan holidays in Cornwall are the same as mine in the same era in North Wales, where wellies were an essential item of packing to make your way to the toilet block through the wet grass. And, like her, I can still taste those tinned pies ("Fray Bentos pies a taste of family holiday nostalgia", Letters, January 15). So much for staycations!

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

LETTER OF THE DAY

DISGRACE: One in six UK pensioners live in poverty

OAP poverty is a stain on this country

HEADLINES say there will be approximately two million pensioners living in poverty, up from 1.5 million. What a disgraceful state of affairs ("Elderly living in poverty 'could exceed 2 million", January 14).

It is alright saying contact Age UK to find out which claim you can make to try and ease your monetary situation. Few pensioners would know how to do this, or would want to, as they see it as charity and are ashamed that they have to do this instead of receiving a decent pension in their latter years.

Surely instead of pensioners claiming this type of assistance, it would be better to lift the tax allowance and save elderly people's anxiety and worry.

Sylvia Rylance,
Cleadon, Tyne & Wear

SAVE SPECIAL HONOURS FOR THE NATION'S REAL HEROES

SCRAP the honours farce. Remove the virtue signalling and start to honour selfless individuals ("Forget the honours list, real heroes are all around", January 5). The "luvvie" set, actors, TV and media get enough money, praise and massaging of their egos without gongs.

Women footballers are the worst. Their game has no history to commend. Geoff Hurst, right, won the World Cup in 1966, scored a hat-trick and wasn't knighted until 1998.

And don't get me started on Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman. Simply ridiculous.

Art Finch,
Richmond, London

TODAY: Friday January 16, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
STILL 10p
WHOLE OF UK AT RISK FROM 3 DAYS OF STORMS
WHY EATING TOO MUCH SALT COULD LEAD TO ALZHEIMER'S
BRITAIN READY TO CUT FOREIGN AID CASH
THERE MUST BE JUSTICE FOR POPPY

Eight years ago (2018)
We reported that fury at the £13.4billion overseas aid bill had forced the Government to suggest spending may be cut. Following pressure from Daily Express readers, the Government admitted for the first time that the scale of Britain's foreign aid budget has sparked "legitimate" concern among voters.

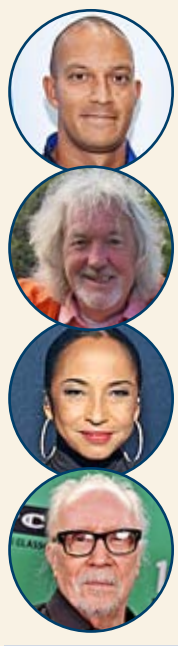
International development secretary Penny Mordaunt promised to take action against wealthier countries.

84 years ago (1942)
Screen icon Carole Lombard, 33, and her mother were among the 22 people who died when TWA Flight 3 from New York to Burbank, California crashed into a mountain 15 minutes after taking off from Las Vegas. Lombard was one of the most talented actresses of her generation.

56 years ago (1970)
Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, 28, seized power in Libya following a coup that brought about an end to the monarchy under King Idris.

He went on to become one of the world's most volatile rulers, backing many militant groups. In 2003 he accepted responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing and paid compensation to families of the victims of the attack.

BIRTHDAYS



Ex-footballer **Bobby Zamora** is 45. He has two England caps. Grand Tour host **James May** is 63. He was a choirboy. Smooth Operator singer **Sade** is 67. Her real name is Helen Folasade Adu. Halloween director **John Carpenter** is 78. He also composes the music for most of his films.

TODAY'S GIGGLE
What do you call two octopuses that look the same? Itenticle.

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RUSSELL GRANT

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

You have a lot to do as the working week comes to a close. You may have thought about taking the day off but it is unlikely this will happen. This probably was just a fleeting thought to begin with and as it is, there's far too much going on that you won't want to miss. Embrace the busyness; it could lead to opportunities and delightful moments.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You're drawn to new faces. A restlessness you have been feeling has something to do with a relationship that is starting to feel tied. It's important for you to have freedom and if someone has excessive expectations, you need to share your thoughts. Embrace the thrill of exploration, it may lead you to unexpected insights about your desires.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

You have made a firm resolve to complete a task by the end of the day. This might involve stepping away from those who usually share your world. What's important is the knowledge that once this is over, it will bring you an immense sense of relief. Embrace this solitude, for it can illuminate insights that often go unnoticed amidst the daily chatter.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

You have been struggling to persuade a partner to go along with your plans. It has felt as if you've been fighting a losing battle in trying to convince them your ideas are feasible. Tonight, without any effort at all on your part, they will reveal they have had a change of heart. They have been listening after all and better still, they now agree with you.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

You seem to be in a detached state of mind. You find it hard to engage with anything that's happening around you. If you're craving excitement, there's an entire weekend ahead of you. Consider planning something different or new that could provide a refreshing change. Let your imagination roam free, as inspiration can often be found in the unlikeliest of places.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

A job you are working on doesn't seem to be going as it should. You're starting to wonder whether you are approaching it in the right way. If you are following guidelines precisely, it would be worth persisting a little longer. Everything should turn out okay in the end, but keep an open mind to new ideas that may illuminate your path forward.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

You will get your chance now to put a stop to someone's domineering behaviour. Once you have said your piece, the situation will be very different and those who need it will be given the right kind of encouragement. Your voice will resonate, creating a ripple effect that promotes a sense of empowerment among those around you.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

It can feel as if you're always the one responsible for resolving difficult issues. Once again, by the end of the day, due to you stepping in when needed, a problem will be sorted. Everyone will appreciate your input and they will let you know it. Your kindness will be a balm to those around you. As for this evening, be sure to prioritise your own needs.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

KATE MOSS
Born on this day, 1974

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

You want to keep certain matters private. It isn't easy when you're with people who ask a lot of questions. That's why you will decide to withdraw behind the scenes. A personal concern or one that relates to your close family is about to reach a conclusion. In this quiet space, you might also discover unexpected insights about your relationships.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

You just want to retreat behind the scenes and avoid the spotlight today. Above all, you want to stay out of the line of fire of someone who seems determined to involve everyone in their plans, regardless of whether others like their ideas or not. Your tactics will be successful and you get to keep out of it all, allowing a moment of reflection to unfold.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

You're focused on financial issues and you have some great ideas for saving money. Share your ideas with others, and do it soon. The quicker you get started on your plans, the sooner you will notice positive outcomes. This could lead to collaborations that enhance your financial landscape even further. Trust in the process and embrace the support around you.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

You're ready to share developments with your family. Even though this will mean a few changes, you are hoping everyone will be pleased for you. You might even decide to organise a celebration. This is an event that needs special acknowledgement. Your excitement is palpable, and you may find their joy enhances the significance of this moment.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
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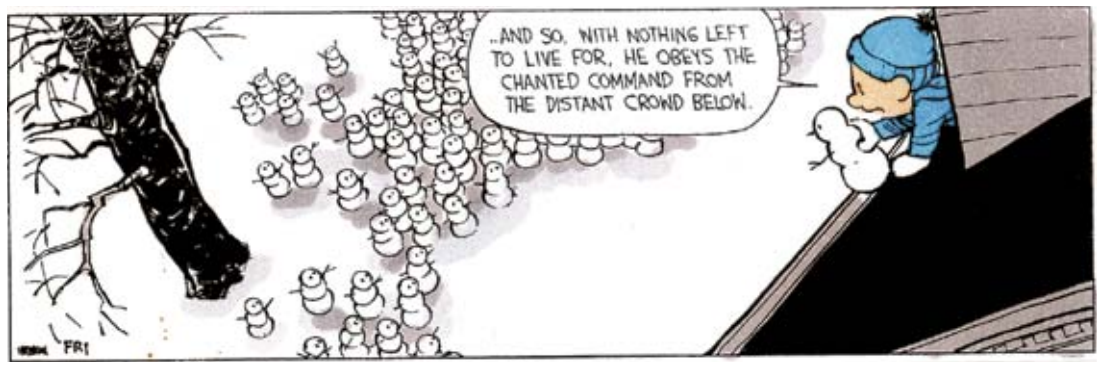
RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.13

"Our King's too busy, as I said!
Go! Ask someone else instead!"

As the Imps laugh him to scorn
Rupert moves off, so forlorn.

The Imp returns with the scroll. "His Majesty," he states, "instructed me to take this straight back to you. He says that he's far too busy to visit other royalty. King Penguin will have to visit him!" Another Imp chimes in, "We told you so!" Rupert turns away sadly with the unkind laughter of the Imps in his ears. "If the King of the Imps won't help then I'll just have to find someone else with a royal name," the little bear tells himself.

CALVIN AND HOBBES
BILL WATTERSON



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ALCOHOL & LICENSING

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that I/We, **ALIREZA ZAKERI** have made an application under section 17 of part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the grant of a premises licence for the premises known as: **124 POTTERNEWTON LANE** LEEDS LS7 2EG We intend to conduct the following licensable activities on or from the premises: Sale by retail of alcohol every day 12:00-01:00 Provision of late night refreshment every day 23:00-1:00 Responsible authorities or any other person may make written representations to Leeds City Council about this application until 10/02/2026 which should be sent to entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk or Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact Entertainment Licensing on 0113 378 5029 or email entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that We, **Maughans Deli Ltd** have made an application under section 17 of part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the grant of a premises licence for the premises known as: **Maughans Deli** Unit A Madison East SoYo Square St Cecilia Street Leeds LS2 7ER We intend to conduct the following licensable activities on or from the premises: Sale by Retail of Alcohol Everyday 06:30 - 23:30 Performance of Live Music Everyday 08:00 - 23:00 Performance of Recorded Music Everyday 06:30 - 23:00 Responsible authorities or any other person may make written representations to Leeds City Council about this application until 10/02/2026 which should be sent to entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk or Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact Entertainment Licensing on 0113 378 5029 or email entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

LOUISE ALLEN - CAMILA'S STORY

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SOOTHING EYE MASSAGER

Modern life often leaves eyes tired and sore, with prolonged screen use causing fatigue and headaches. This compact eye massager combines gentle air-pressure massage with soothing heat to relieve discomfort and improve circulation. Three programmes, each accompanied by tranquil nature sounds, promote relaxation and help ease tension. Soft padding and an adjustable headband provide comfort, while simple one-button controls and USB rechargeable cordless use make it easy to enjoy at home or on the move, offering a convenient and calming way to care for your eyes.

- Simple, one button control
- USB rechargeable
- Weight: 0.5 kg
- 1-year warranty

yimbly.com/Offer30 Quote **Offer30** Offer ends 5th February

UK Customer Service 0161 444 9879 | Now Open 7 Days a Week

Offers subject to availability. Terms and Conditions apply. Free Delivery over £50. Customer Service operates 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday, and 9.00am - 1.00pm, Saturday and Sunday, except on Bank Holidays. Calls are charged at your standard network rate. Visit yimbly.com/terms for full details, including Delivery & Returns information. For queries, contact support@yimbly.com.

Trustpilot

Winter Sale Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

STYLISH WOODEN OUTDOOR STORAGE

Keep your garden tools and outdoor essentials neatly organised with this durable fir wood garden shed. Three bottom shelves plus a large top compartment provide plenty of space for tools, equipment, and accessories. The slanted asphalt roof prevents water from pooling, keeping contents dry, while the natural wood resists mild weathering, mould, and insects. Two lockable wooden doors with shutter panels allow airflow and secure storage. Compact yet practical, this shed is a simple, reliable solution for keeping your garden tidy and well-organised.

- Perfect for areas with limited space
- Reclining asphalt roof to prevent water build up
- Shutter design allows air inside
- Self-assembly required
- Size: H160 x W87 x D46.5 cm

yimbly.com/Offer42 Quote **Offer42** Offer ends 1st February

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City & Business

AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	10238.9	▲	+54.6
FTSE 250	23280.0	▲	+322.7
FTSE ALL SHARE	5518.7	▲	+34.7
Shares Traded	14798.8 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE

Abrdn	224½	+14¾
Aviva	678¾	+6¼
BAE Systems	2041	+3
Barclays	484¼	+4½
Centrica	181¼	+4¾
Convatec Group	237	+1½
HSBC Holdings	1236¾	+23¾
Int Consolidated Airlines	410¾	+6½
Lloyds Banking Group	102¼	+1¼
Marks & Spencer Group	363½	+8
National Grid	1181	+14
NatWest Group	639	+9
Sainsbury (J)	316	+5
Shell	2746½	+7½
Tesco	428½	+7¼
Vodafone Group	100¾	+1

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

AstraZeneca	14026	-320
BP	438	-5½
BT Group	181	-2¾
GSK	1848	-32½
Haleon	362¼	-4
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1273	-2
Saga	416	-4
Unilever	4780½	-51
Whitbread	2780	-13

WORLD MARKETS

WALL STREET	49,442.4	▲	+292.8
TOKYO	54110.5	▼	-230.7
HONG KONG	26923.6	▼	-76.2
GERMANY	25352.4	▲	+66.1
FRANCE	8313.1	▼	-17.8

STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.339	▼	-0.005
Yen	212.174	▼	-0.839
Euro	1.153	▼	-0.001

DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	158.469	▼	-0.0190
Dollar/Euro	0.861	▲	+0.0026

COMMODITIES

GOLD($)	▼	4611.03
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3445.48
SILVER(pence)	▲	6828.84
BRENT CRUDE($)	▼	63.43

OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.96 dollar
Canada	1.82 dollar
China	8.78 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.29 koruna
Denmark	8.19 krone
Eurozone	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	9.84 dollar
Hungary	418.00 forint
Israel	3.97 shekel
Japan	204.50 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.61 peso
New Zealand	2.28 dollar
Norway	13.06 krone
Poland	4.62 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.79 riyal
South Africa	21.13 rand
Sweden	11.76 krona
Switzerland	1.05 franc
Thailand	40.51 baht
Turkey	53.92 lira
United States	1.32 dollar

Housing market 'turning a corner' as Budget blues fade

By **Vicky Shaw**

PROPERTY professionals are predicting a busier year for the housing market in the expectation that interest rates will fall and Budget uncertainty has passed.

A Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' poll of members found 22% expect home sales to increase in the next three months and 34% anticipate growth by the end of 2026. These December results are up on November's, when members reported buyer demand and sales down.

The latest research also found surveyors expect house prices to remain flat going into spring before picking up.

RICS said that the market remained "soft" but is now rallying.

Sellers getting on board after slump

House prices continued to edge down in December but at a slower rate overall. However, London and the South East suffered sharp falls, while Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to see record growth.

RICS market research chief Tarrant Parsons said: "December's survey recorded a sixth consecutive month of negative momentum in buyer inquiries.

"That said, there are tentative signs of a shift in sentiment beneath the surface.

"Near-term sales expectations have strengthened, and the 12-month outlook has edged into more positive territory.

"The key test for 2026 will be whether borrowing costs ease on a sustained basis. If so, this could provide the catalyst needed to drive a recovery in buyer demand."

Tom Bill, of Knight Frank agents, said: "The combination of clarity around taxation and the prospect of further rate cuts means demand in the first weeks of January has been stronger than normal.

"For now, the absence of bad news means that some of the demand that became pent up last year is being released and we expect UK prices to grow by 3% this year."

David Fell, lead analyst at Hamptons, said: "The North-South divide looks likely to persist. Housing markets across the Midlands and North seem set to keep the lion's share of house price growth. Southern markets will bear the brunt of the impending mansion tax, and 2026 will see prices here adjust to reflect this."

The RICS report forecasts rents to increase by 3% this year as demand continues to outstrip supply.

CHEERS ALL ROUND AS PUBS DUO BOOM

Revellers were out in force at two pub groups over Christmas

HOSPITALITY giants Mitchells & Butlers and Fuller's have shrugged off cost-of-living woes to cheer strong festive trading.

The news comes amid a whirlwind period for the battling sector, with the government expected to announce more financial support measures for pubs ahead of April's business rates increases. All Bar One and Toby Carvery owner M&B told shareholders it saw an "exceptionally strong" festive period. Like-for-like sales grew by 7.7% between December 14 to January 3, compared with a year earlier. Christmas Day set a new record for the firm.

Fuller's reported 8.2% sales growth over the past five weeks, hailing "strong growth momentum, in both sales and profitability".

Sales momentum building

Taylor Wimpey cautiously optimistic on 2026 sales

TAYLOR Wimpey lowered its annual earnings guidance after sales slowed before the Budget.

The house builder now expects operating profit of around £420million for 2025, up on 2024's £416.2m but down on the £424m guided in November.

It said Budget fears knocked sales in the final six months of last year and has hit demand going into 2026.

The group ended 2025 with an order book valued at £1.86billion, down from £2bn at the end of 2024, which will play into profitability this year.

Taylor said: "While it is too early to predict the outcome of the spring selling season, we are experiencing a good level of inquiries consistent with last year." It completed 10,614 UK homes last year, up from 9,972 in 2024.

Average selling prices on private homes rose to £374,000 from £356,000, helping revenues grow to around £3.8bn, from £3.4bn in 2024.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3341	+306	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1869	+2	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	359¼	+4	372¾	123¾
Alliance Trust	1302	+16	1324	1050
Anglo American	3320	+46	3340	2003¾
Antofagasta	3665	+89	3678	1383
Ashtead Group	5324#	+54	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	14026	-320	14410	9667
Auto Trader	580½#	+6¼	908½	568½
Aviva	678¾	+6¼	692½	485¾
Babcock International	1468#	-7	1502	492½
BAE Systems	2041	+3	2093	1180½
Barclays	484¼	+4½	488½	241¾
Barratt Development	375½	+6½	482¼	350
Beazley Group	819	-2	973	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3928	+54	4324	3524
BP	438	-5½	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4339#	+99	4421	2905
British Land	404¼	+4½	420½	321¼
BT Group	181#	-2¾	222¾	139½
Bunzl	2078		3452	2032
Burberry Group	1288½	-42	1371½	627¾
Centrica	181¼	+4¾	182¾	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3922	+18	4034	2710
Compass Group	2281#	-40	2843	2255
Convatec Group	237	+1½	295½	221¼
CRH	9216	+16	9704	6142
Croda International	2765	+7	3383	2465
DCC	4504	+58	5600	4350
Diageo	1678½	-13	2503½	1577
Diploma	5665#	+110	5695	3624
EasyJet	484	+2	587¾	427½
Entain	726¾	+13	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3330#	+5	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1272#	+17	1275	962
Flutter Entert	15120	+40	23630	14655
Fresnillo	3754	-12	3782	657
Games Workshop	19000#	+320	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1848	-32½	1901½	1264
Glencore	491	+6¾	501½	230
Haleon	362¼	-4	415¼	326½
Halma	3676#	+62	3676	2360
Hikma	1562	-5	2340	1507
Hiscox	1397	+9	1429	1035
HSBC Holdings	1236¾	+23¾	1240¼	713¼
IMI	2680	+62	2680	1606
Imperial Brands	3063	+39	3312	2580
Informa	894¼	+4½	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10198¾	-3341¼	10370½	5544¾
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2030	+57	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4620	+8	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	410¾	+6½	437	224½
JD Sports	83½	+¼	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	315	-2¼	329¾	238½
Land Securities	641½	+13½	650	499½
Legal & General	266	+2½	267¾	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	102¼	+1¼	102¾	57
London & Stamford Prop	202½	+7¼	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	9086	+86	12095	8138
M&G	299	+5½	300½	172¾
Marks & Spencer	363½	+8	411¼	318½
Melrose	636¼	+2½	680	386
Mondi	909½	+1½	1326	819
National Grid	1181	+14	1192½	919¾
NatWest Group	639	+9	665½	405¼
Next	13960	-90	14580	9252
Pearson	978½	+5¾	1379	956½
Pershing Square Hold	4748	-18	5090	3244
Persimmon	1406½	+55	1414½	1037½
Phoenix Group	745	+8½	750½	498¼
Prudential	1185	+5	1197	612½
Reckitt Benckiser	6146	-38	6228	4633
RELX	3123	+32	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	463	-1	473½	309½
Rightmove	517¾	+6	823¾	504½
Rio Tinto	6468	+113	6468	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1273	-2	1305	563½
Sage Group	1039½#	-14½	1348	1036½
Sainsbury (J)	316	+5	355¾	228¾
Schroders	458½	+41	458¾	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1215½	+20	1219	815¼
SEGRO	751½	+16½	752	599
Severn Trent	2819	+40	2907	2370
Shell	2746½	+7½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1238	+23½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2562	+102	2574	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3235	+44	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7255	+195	8190	5445
SSE	2317#	+22	2320	1463½
St James's Place	1506	+36½	1507½	791
Standard Chartered	1850½	+14	1865¼	878¾
Tesco	428½	+7¼	475½	314½
Unilever	4780½	-51	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1218½#	+20	1242	944½
Vodafone Group	100¾#	+1	103¾	64
Weir Group	3068	+24	3098	1984
Whitbread	2780	-13	3274	2335

£13k shortfall for 'comfortable' pay

WORKERS believe they need to earn an extra £13,000 a year to feel stable due to the economic situation, according to a report.

Employment group Reed said its survey of 5,000 people revealed a significant "comfort gap" on pay.

Asked what income they needed for a comfortable standard of living, the average figure was £52,000, which Reed said was "way above" the current average of £39,000.

The study revealed big pressure on workers. One in four said they were left with £100 or less after essential bills each month. More than one in four said their income stretches less than it did four years ago.

Global MD Ian Nicholas said that in general, people seemed to be coming to terms with the reality that significant pay increases may no longer be on the horizon.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1980	+8	2180	1338
Babcock International	1468#	-7	1502	492½
BAE Systems	2041	+3	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	541	-4	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	503½#	-8	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1273	-2	1305	563½
Senior	228	+2½	230	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	896	+18	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	484¼	+4½	488½	241¾
Bco Santander	910	+18	922	392½
Close Brothers	509½	+6	550½	215½
HSBC Holdings	1236¾	+23¾	1240¼	713¼
Investec	594½	+12	596½	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	102¼	+1¼	102¾	57
Metro Bank	129	-½	133½	81
NatWest Group	639	+9	665½	405¼
Paragon Group	896½	+12	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1850½	+14	1865¼	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	642	+14	711	574
Coca-Cola HBC	3922	+18	4034	2710
Diageo	1678½	-13	2503½	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	59	+1	80	21
Croda International	2765	+7	3383	2465
Elementis	174	+7	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2358#	-4	2376	1156
Synthomer	63½	+½	158¼	46
Treatt	221	+3	450	186½
Victrex	702	+4	1066	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	719½	+8	727	390½
Costain Group	163½	+3½	168	86
CRH	9216	+16	9704	6142
Dialight	330	-17	364	89
Galliford Try	529	+3	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	385	-24	538	320
Keller Group	1708	+24	1714	1240
Kier Group	222	+5	231½	115¼
Marshalls	179¾	+3¾	293	162
Morgan Sindall	4960	+150	4975	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28½		52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	900	+½	905	536½
SSE	2317#	+22	2320	1463½
Telecom Plus	1370	-12	2085	1340
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	606#	+11	738	486
Halma	3676#	+62	3676	2360
Oxford Instruments	2325	+120	2325	1500
Renishaw	3855	+210	3865	2145
TT Electronics	110	-1½	154	73
XP Power	877	-24	1314	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	383	+4	385	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1630	+28	1636	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	64½
Alliance Trust	1302	+16	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	275	+1	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	262½	+4	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	939	+16	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	137½	+2¾	138½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	136	+1½	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	402½	-1	414	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1275	+10	1295	620
BlackRock Mining	955	+9	967	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼#		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	28	+¼	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1490	+14	1514	1140
Caledonia Inv.	378	-4½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	393	+4	394	165¾
City Of London	549	+7	550	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	312	+4	312½	262
Edin Wwide Inv	226½	+2½	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	827	-1	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	386#	+4½	388	289½
Elderstreet VCT	36½	-2¼	41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	350½	+3½	352	287
F&C Inv Tst	1272#	+17	1275	962
F&C Smaller Cos	184½#	+3½	184½	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1435	+27½	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	612	+2	628	454
Fidelity European	434	+3½	435	338½
Fidelity Special	431	+5	431	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	837	+6	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1132	+10	1136	632
Graphite Ent	1536	+10	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	272	+1	276	190
Hansa Tst Plc	275	+2	280	192½
Henderson Far Est	250½	+3½	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	194½#	+1½	197½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2635	+45	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	508	+2	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	120½	+1½	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	407	+6	416½	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	972#	+4	996	480
International Public	130	+1	130½	107¾
Invesco Asia.	445#	+5	447	300
Invesco Perp UK	381	+2	386	313½
JPM American	1132	+18	1186	869
JPM Asian	483#	+2	483	331½
JPM Claverhouse	888	+2	888	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	144½#	+½	144¾	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	620#	+7	620	444½
JPM Global Emerging	180#	+3	180	118½
JPM Indian	996	+3	1106	904
JPM Japanese	759#	+15	760	493
JPM Overseas IT	588	+6	610	480
JPM Smaller Co	335½	+5	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	427	+9	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	935	+4	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	187		220	184
Law Debenture	1124#	+18	1124	788
Lowland Invest Co	165#	+½	165	114½
Majedie Inv.	276		282	230
Manchester&Lon.	803	+2	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	358#		386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT	33½#		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	265#	+3½	266	202½
Merchants Tst	616	+7	618	474
Mid Wynd Int.	796	+12	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1552	+14	1556	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst	170	+1½	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	104#	-½	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	933	+6	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	332#	+2	335	239
New India	758	+2	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	129	+1½	130	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	375	+1	378	302
Pacific Horizon	861	+15	864¾	507
Pantheon Int.	383½	+½	386½	266
Pershing Square Hold	4748	-18	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	492½	+11	493	255½
RCM Technology Trust	549	+12	553	307
RIT Capital Partners	2250	+15	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	299½	+½	304	270
Schroder Asia	700#	+7	701	461½
Schroder Inc.	354#	+3	355	255
Schroder Japan	331#	+2	334	209
Schroder UK	210	+2	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	732	+8	736	520
Scottish American	525	+6	526	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1215½	+20	1219	815¼
Shires Inc.	313½#	+8	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	139½	+1	155	124
Standard Life Equity	413½#	+7½	417	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	521	+8	531	426
Temple Bar.	384	+4	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	255#	+3½	255½	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	111#	+½	111	84
Throgmorton Tst.	641	+9	646	469
TR Euro.Growth	224½	+1½	225½	163
TR Prop. IT	333	+6	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	317		322	221
Wwide Healthcare	377½	-2½	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3341	+306	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	385	+2½	387½	301
Abrdn	224½	+14¾	224½	123¾
Ashmore Group	225½	+43	225½	125
Guinness Peat Group	84¾	+1½	96	68¼
IG Group	1327	+23	1342	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2030	+57	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	236		237	121½
IP Group	58¼	+1¼	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	184½	+7¾	184½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	263½	+10½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	9086	+86	12095	8138
M&G	299	+5½	300½	172¾
Man Group	268¾	+7½	270¾	154¾
Provident Financial	1173¾	+2¼	128½	47¾
Rathbone Brothers	2155	+155	2160	1406
S & U	2290	+30	2300	1330
Schroders	458½	+41	458¾	289¼
St James's Place	1506	+36½	1507½	791
Tullett Prebon	257	+6½	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		15¾	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	359¼	+4	372¾	123¾
BT Group	181#	-2¾	222¾	139½
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1673	+42	2234	1418
Kingfisher	315	-2¼	329¾	238½
Next	13960	-90	14580	9252
Pets At Home	198	+1	273¼	192¾
RM Group	111	-3	118	82
Topps Tiles	45#		50	29
WH Smith	637½	+13½	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	237	+1½	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+¾		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1238	+23½	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	375½	+6½	482¼	350
Bellway	2708	+50	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3928	+54	4324	3524
Bovis Homes	636¾	+15½	701	510¾
Mcbride	145½	-1½	159	101½
Persimmon	1406½	+55	1414½	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6146	-38	6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey	103¾		123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	764	+16½	766	460½
Hill & Smith	2360	+75	2375	1530
IMI	2680	+62	2680	1606
Morgan Crucible	237	+6½	274	177½
Northgate	380½	+3	395	273½
Rotork	343½	+9¾	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7255	+195	8190	5445
Vesuvius	431	+11¾	432	313¾
Weir Group	3068	+24	3098	1984
Xaar	109	-1	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	272½		319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	70	+½	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	225	+3	278	201
Clarkson	4160	-30	4505	2995
FirstGroup	188¼	+2¾	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	379	-9	403	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop	19000#	+320	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	135½	+3½	230	131½
Life Insurance				
Aviva	678¾	+6¼	692½	485¾
Chesnara	302		304½	212¾
Legal & General	266	+2½	267¾	215¼
Phoenix Group	745	+8½	750½	498¼
Prudential	1185	+5	1197	612½
Media				
4imprint Group	4380	+35	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	509	+14½	672	468
Future	511#	-9	1029	496
Informa	894¼	+4½	993½	640¼
ITV	81¼	+1¾	87¾	66¼
Pearson	978½	+5¾	1379	956½
Reach	56	+½	88¼	53
STV Group	114¼	+¼	203	103
Wilmington Group.	295	+1	387	289
WPP Group	322	-5¼	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3320	+46	3340	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	131½#	+3	131¾	50
Antofagasta.	3665	+89	3678	1383
BHP Billiton	2475	+35	2480	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4106	-46	4152	1487
Fresnillo.	3754	-12	3782	657
Gem Diamonds	3		12	2¾
Glencore	491	+6¾	501½	230
Hochschild Mining.	587½	+6	590	168
Kenmare Res.	259½	-3½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	18	-1	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6468	+113	6468	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	100¾#	+1	103¾	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1232½	+17½	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2020	-30	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	819	-2	973	769
Hiscox	1397	+9	1429	1035
Lancashire	602	+2	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	438	-5½	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	227	+1	331½	183
Enquest	11½	-¼	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	182½	+½	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	207½	-3	294	151¼
Shell	2746½	+7½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21¼#	+¼	27½	18
Tullow Oil	7¼	-¼	23½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting	417	+9½	419	246½
John Wood Group	26½	-¼	72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1288½	-42	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	72¾		88¼	66
Unilever	4780½	-51	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	14026	-320	14410	9667
Genus	2630	+35	2715	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	1848	-32½	1901½	1264
Haleon	362¼	-4	415¼	326½
Hikma	1562	-5	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	913	+109	952	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	219	-6	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700#		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	59¾		78	53½
Foxtons	53½	-3½	68¼	52¼
Harworth Group	166	+1	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	9050	-25	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		320	280
Rightmove	517¾	+6	823¾	504½
Savills	1108	+90	1126	871
Wynnstay Props.	875		875	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1076#	+34	1180	848
British Land	404¼	+4½	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	144½	+2½	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1885	+40	2096	1608
Grainger	195¼#	+2¼	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	339	+11½	363	262
Hammerson	342	+5½	348¼	220½
Helical Bar	187¾	-¼	240	171¾
Land Securities	641½	+13½	650	499½
London & Stamford Prop	202½	+7¼	204½	170½
Primary Health.	104½	+1½	105	87½
SEGRO	751½	+16½	752	599
Town Centre	121	-2	149	117
Unite Group	579	+10	879½	510
Value & Income	201#		215	173
Workspace Group	419½#	+9½	478½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3162	+50	3212	2066
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	294½	+½	344	255
Moneysupermarket	188½	+½	221½	180½
Pendragon	353½	+1	558	296
RELX	3123	+32	4135	2972
Sage Group	1039½#	-14½	1348	1036½
Triad Group	245		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5324#	+54	5594	3659
Capita Group	395½	+½	407½	175
DCC	4504	+58	5600	4350
Diploma	5665#	+110	5695	3624
Essentra	97¼	+1	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	3330#	+5	4088	3091
Ferguson	18680#	+490	19470	11670
Hays	47¼	-1¼	88¼	46¾
Intertek Group	4620	+8	5385	4064
Johnson Service	141	+1½	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2600
Macfarlane Group	70	-2¼	120½	62¾
Mears Group	358	+5	417½	311½
Michael Page	208½	+2½	341¼	205
Mitie Group	169¾#	+2¾	171½	112
Norish	18¾		18¾	14
Paypoint	493½	+27½	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	463	-1	473½	309½
Robert Walters	129	-7½	315	116
RS Group	655½	+9	681½	487¼
Serco Group	295½	+2½	295½	150
SIG	9¾	-¼	18	8½
Smiths News	68½#		77½	47½
Speedy Hire	25¼#	+¼	32¼	18
SThree	186¾	+5¼	289½	137½
Travis Perkins	678	+29	714	494
Trifast	79¾	+7½	87½	59
Vitec Group	11¾	-1	135	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	15½		19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4339#	+99	4421	2905
Imperial Brands	3063	+39	3312	2580
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	24¾	+1½	74	21
Carnival	2218	-1	2406	1134
Celtic	195	-4	200	142½
Compass Group	2281#	-40	2843	2255
Domino's Pizza.	181½	-1	302¾	167¼
easyJet	484	+2	587¾	427½
Entain	726¾	+13	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	15120	+40	23630	14655
Fuller Smith & Turner	724	+14	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10198¾	+86	10370½	5544¾
Intl Consolidated Airlines	410¾	+6½	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	560		575	380
Marston's	64¼	+½	67	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	279	+4	291½	208½
National Express	23¼	+¾	78	21
Rank Group	99	-½	160½	78
Saga	416	-4	438	114
Wetherspoon (JD)	757	+2	804	541
Whitbread	2780	-13	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	247½		395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	880	+2½	1100	837½
Boohoo	22		30½	10½
Camellia	4975	-10	6050	4090
Churchill China	330	+6	710	315
CML Microsystems.	265		335	210
Colefax Group	990	-5	996¾	750
CPP Group	81½		162	68½
Cropper (James)	390	-10	404	132½
Falkland Islands	250#	-1	316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	898	+12	998	637½
Filtronic	190	-3	197	82½
James Halstead	138½	-½	181½	133
Mothercare	2		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	337½	+15	586	270
Naked Wine	75½	+¼	93½	43
Nichols	1020	+30	1465	930
Northamber	31½#		34	26¼
Portmeirion	98½	-½	189	94
Regal Petroleum	16		24	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	67	-1	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	46½		73	46
Titon Holdings	92½	-5	97½	69
Volex	443	+9½	444½	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	810	+4	992	714

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Ex-dividend * Ex-rights a Ex-All c Ex-capitalisation † Shares suspended

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Racing

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LION TO BE PRIDE OF THE PACK

NEMEAN LION (3.00) can prove the 'mane' act again at Windsor by retaining the track's £100,000 signature hurdle race today.

By **The Scout**

Kerry Lee's, right, stable star ran a career best when third behind Golden Ace in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle in November.

And with nothing of that level in the 2m4f feature, he can grab the spoils.

The Dan Skelton-trained **BE AWARE** (1.50) lost little in his defeat by Arkle favourite Lulamba in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase at Sandown in December.

He set a good tempo until joined at the second-last, and a repeat of those tactics can see him return to the winners' circle.

Lighty raced **ALFIE'S PRINCESS** (2.25) is fancied to follow up a Boxing Day win at Wincanton in the Mares' Handicap Chase, while **THE HARDEST GEEZER** (3.35) could be rewarded for three commendable efforts this term with victory in the 2m handicap hurdle.

At Newcastle, **COUL ANGEL** (3.20) can atone for an unlucky run at Southwell last time. He was all dressed up with nowhere to go inside the final furlong and, with better luck, has a good chance of turning the tables on race winner Pocklington.

Dylan Cunha's frontrunner **MAHONS GLORY** (2.05) didn't last home in the Grand Sefton and Becher Chases at Aintree this season, but can land the spoils at Market Rasen in veterans' company.

In the Listed bumper, **THE FLAGGY SHORE** (2.40) is the pick to reaffirm her promise by following up an eye-catching winning stable debut at Warwick last time.

12.40 THORN PLANT HIRE NOVICES' HURDLE
£15,843 (Class 2) 3m (6 declared)

1 122-351 ● **MONEYGARROW (36)** D Skelton 6 11-5 ..... **H Skelton ★135**
2 2/136-31 **SWINDON VILLAGE (47)** C Longsdon 6 11-5 ..... **D Bass 133**
3 3/21-12 **THEY CALL ME HUGO (34)** O Murphy 6 11-5 ..... **S Bowen 134**
4 P1/4- **HAWTHORN STREET (357)** J & A O'Neill 7 11-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr 125**
5 P4/1- **LIFETIME IN MILAN (615)** C Gordon 7 11-0 ..... **F Gordon –**
6 85-7 **POP'S FOLLY (43)** G Nicholls 6 11-0 ..... **L Williams 95**

SP FORECAST: 6-5 They Call Me Hugo, 9-4 Moneygarrow, 3 Swindon Village, 14 Hawthorn Street, 25 Lifetime In Milan, 100 Pop's Folly.

1.15 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE
£10,562 (3) 3m 60yds (5)

1 2142-L1 **GAMESTERS GUY (35) (D)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 7 11-10 **Craig Nichol 139**
Runs: 16 Wins: 7(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £122,492
Trainer: O Murphy Owner: Mrs A Williams And Mr A Badri

2 28PF-1P **GUARD THE MOON (18)** N & W Twiston-Davies 8 11-7 **S Twiston-Davies ★142**
Runs: 11 Wins: 6(S,G) Places: 2 £155,071
Trainer: N & W Twiston-Davies Owner: El Rincon

3 16/3FLP- **SAINT DAVY (307)** J & A O'Neill 9 11-7 ..... **Jonjo O'Neill Jr 121**
4 14P2-L1 ● **KING OF ANSWERS (40)** L Russell & M Scudamore 7 11-5 **D R Fox 141**
Runs: 20 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 1 £104,164
T: G & J Moore O: Noel Fehily Racing Syndicates Hansard

5 11-54L5 **QUEENSBURY BOY (21) (T)** M Bowen 7 11-1 ..... **J Bowen 139**
Runs: 14 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £68,406
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Mr Garry Wilson

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Gamesters Guy, 5-2 King Of Answers, 4 Guard The Moon, 6 Queensbury Boy, 7 Saint Davy.

1.50 NOVICES' CHASE (GRADE 2) ITV4
£42,712 (1) 2m 37yds (5)

1 25-11P4 **ALNILAM (20) (D)** 7 11 5 ..... **S Bowen 156**
Runs: 14 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £122,492
Trainer: O Murphy Owner: Mrs A Williams And Mr A Badri

2 388-122 ● **BE AWARE (41)** 7 11 2 ..... **H Skelton ★165**
Runs: 11 Wins: 2(GS) Places: 6 £118,406
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Mr Andrew L Cohen

3 097-L12 **HANSARD (20) (D)** 8 11 2 ..... **C Quinn 147**
Runs: 20 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 1 £104,164
T: G & J Moore O: Noel Fehily Racing Syndicates Hansard

4 21L-123 **NO QUESTIONS ASKED (28)** 8 11 2 ..... **B R Jones 159**
Runs: 12 Wins: 6(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £57,281
Trainer: B Pauling Owner: Newton Ldp Ltd

5 1/111PP- **ROADLESSTRAVELLED (321)** 7 11 2 ..... **J O'Neill Jr –**
Runs: 7 Wins: 4(S,G) £43,179
Trainer: J & A O'Neill Owner: Brook Farm Bloodstock

HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Be Aware, 3 Hansard, 10-3 No Questions Asked, 7 Alnilam, 12 Roadlesstravelled.

GUIDE: There was lots to like about the performance of **Be Aware**, even though he had no chance with Lulamba in the Henry VIII at Sandown (1m7f, gd-sft), and his runner-up effort at this level at Cheltenham (2m, sft) prior would put him bang there. However, **Roadlesstravelled** and **Alnilam** are unlikely to let him have his own way on the lead and that might set it up for **NO QUESTIONS ASKED**. Ben Pauling's charge can take a keen hold, but has shaped with plenty of encouragement when second and third in this class the last twice. The drop back in trip might see him in an even better light.

2.25 MARES' HANDICAP CHASE ITV4
£31,218 (2) 2m 4f 42yds (9)

1 1PL-142 **BLUEY (29)** E Lavelle 7 12-0 ..... **B R Jones 134**
2 121P-31 **HOLLYGROVE CHA CHA (29)** J Snowden 6 12-0 ..... **G Sheehan 132**
3 3L0-LLL **ALL THE GLORY (29)** J & A O'Neill 9 11-12 ..... **Jonjo O'Neill Jr 129**
4 1532/2-1 ● **ALFIE'S PRINCESS (21) (D)** S Thomas 9 11-9 ..... **D Johnston ★135**
5 3533-49 **GEORGI GIRL (34)** P Hobbs & J White 7 11-7 ..... **C Pritchard(3) 131**
6 5-LL322 **MALAITA (27) (D)** Mrs M Rowley 10 11-0 ..... **T Wynne 133**
7 3BLL-21 **LARGY FORCE (28) (D)** O Murphy 8 10-5 ..... **S Bowen 132**
8 3224-3P **OSTRAVA DU BERLAIS (34)** V Williams 8 10-4 ..... **C Deutsch 133**
9 24-222L **FOLLOWANGO (27)** E Williams 8 10-3 ..... **Isabel Williams 131**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 9 HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 3 Alfie's Princess, 4 Hollygrove Cha Cha, Bluey, 9-2 Largy Force, 10 Followango, 12 Malaita, 14 Georgi Girl, 16 Ostrava Du Berlais, All The Glory.

GUIDE: Alfie's Princess was pushed out to score by three lengths on her return from the sidelines at Wincanton (2m4f, gd-sft) on Boxing Day but, with only one other making it round, it's easy to pick holes in the form. Therefore, the progressive **HOLLYGROVE CHA CHA** makes more appeal. Jamie Snowden's mare comfortably took care of **Bluey** at Exeter (2m1f, hvy) last month and is a Grade 2 winner over the smaller obstacles. This represents her first outing in a handicap and a mark of 129 may underestimate her ability.

WINDSOR SKYSPORTSRACING

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THE SCOUT

12.40 Moneygarrow	3.00 Nemean Lion
1.15 King Of Answers	3.35 The Hardest Geezer
1.50 Be Aware	4.05 Hold Up La Colmine
2.25 Alfie's Princess	

3.00 HURDLE ITV4
£52,030 (2) 2m 4f (5)

1 2111P-L ● **NEMEAN LION (48) (C&D)** 9 11 8 ..... **C O'Farrell 157**
Runs: 16 Wins: 7(S,GS) Places: 4 £284,715
Trainer: Kerry Lee Owner: Mr Will Roseff

2 115-F34 **POTTERS CHARM (27) (D)** 7 11 8 **S Twiston-Davies 153**
Runs: 11 Wins: 6(S,G) Places: 2 £155,071
Trainer: N & W Twiston-Davies Owner: El Rincon

3 335-623 **TAKE NO CHANCES (49) (D)** 8 11 1 ..... **H Skelton 158**
Runs: 23 Wins: 6(GS,G) Places: 9 £168,440
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Mr Garry Wilson

4 2118-56 **ALTOBELLI (27)** 8 11 0 ..... **B Carver ★159**
Runs: 13 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £100,018
Trainer: H Fry Owner: Charlie Walker And Jonny Craib

5 452-34L **ROYAL INFANTRY (35)** 7 11 0 ..... **T Durrell 151**
Runs: 14 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £68,406
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Craig & Laura Buckingham

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Nemean Lion, 11-4 Potters Charm, 3 Take No Chances, 7 Altobelli, 10 Royal Infantry.

GUIDE: NEMEAN LION won this contest 12 months ago (sft) and confirmed his wellbeing when a close third in the Fighting Fifth at Newcastle (2m1f, gd-sft) on his return in November. A reproduction of either of those efforts would give Kerry Lee's charge a big chance of adding another victory to his record here. However, **Potters Charm** is another dropping in class following an encouraging fourth in the Long Walk (3m, gd-sft) and he should not be discounted. The rest all have claims, but **Take No Chances** is the pick of them.

3.35 HANDICAP HURDLE ITV4
£57,233 (2) 2m (16)

1 4P1-231 **WILFUL (27) (D)** 7 12 0 ..... **Jonjo O'Neill Jr 145**
Runs: 14 Wins: 6(S,GS,G) Places: 4 £115,862
Trainer: J & A O'Neill Owner: Mrs Fitri Hay

2 112-0 **LIVE CONTI (27) (D)** 5 12 0 ..... **H Skelton 134**
Runs: 4 Wins: 2(S) Places: 1 £53,021
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Masonhogarthfergusonthelatejhales

3 P/1354-2 **KNICKERBOCKERGLORY (41) (D)** 10 11 12 **Harry Atkins(7) 144**
Runs: 22 Wins: 7(S,GS) Places: 5 £155,719
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: S T Racing - Knickerbocker

4 P071-61 **GO DANTE (41) (D)** 10 11 6 ..... **S Bowen 143**
Runs: 21 Wins: 7(S,GS) Places: 1 £185,889
Trainer: O Murphy Owner: Mrs Barbara Hester

5 **44**-3112 **SPECTACULARSUNRISE (20) (D)** 6 11 3 **S Twiston-Davies 142**
Runs: 7 Wins: 3(S,GS,G) Places: 2 £26,937
Trainer: N & W Twiston-Davies Owner: Geoffrey Bruce Ltd

6 3L331/1 **BUBBLE DUBI (69) (D)** 9 11 1 ..... **C Hammond 143**
Runs: 14 Wins: 3(S,GS) Places: 5 £32,998
Trainer: S Edmunds Owner: The Garratt Family

7 440-431 **LISTENTOYOURHEART (15) (C,D)** 7 11 0 **Miss H Palin(7) 141**
Runs: 13 Wins: 5(GS,G) Places: 3 £118,037
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: S T Racing - The Founders' Syndicate

8 0-9LP0L **NO ORDINARY JOE (27) (D)** 10 11 0 ..... **B Macey(7) 130**
Runs: 23 Wins: 4(S,GS,G) Places: 2 £55,429
Trainer: Faye Bramley Owner: The Cheeky Pups

9 1/410-L6 **MILLDAM (27) (D)** 8 10 13 ..... **G Sheehan 130**
Runs: 20 Wins: 5(S) Places: 3 £42,878
Trainer: J Snowden Owner: Neil Goulden, Kevin & Sue Hopgood

10 **19**-3261 **GREAT FLEET (40) (D)** 6 10 12 ..... **T Durrell 134**
Runs: 7 Wins: 2(S) Places: 3 £17,311
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Craig & Laura Buckingham

11 144-624 **HOT FUSS (13) (D,F)** 5 10 11 ..... **D Bass ★146**
Runs: 7 Wins: 1(S) Places: 3 £55,253
Trainer: T Dascombe Owner: Keith, David & Stephen Trowbridge

12 313111 **SALIGO BAY (27) (D)** 8 10 11 ..... **Craig Nichol 141**
Runs: 30 Wins: 8(S,GS,G) Places: 10 £91,627
Trainer: S England Owner: Lpd Demolition Ltd

13 1614-3 **MELON (35) (D)** 5 10 10 ..... **M Kenneally(5) 142**
Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S,GS) Places: 1 £12,090
Trainer: O Greenall & J Guerriero Owner: Rockerfellers

14 515-224 ● **THE HARDEST GEEZER (28) (D)** 7 10 8 **Sean Houlihan 143**
Runs: 9 Wins: 2(S,GS) Places: 2 £16,948
Trainer: P Hobbs & J White Owner: Gals And Geezers

15 00L6L5 **STONER'S CHOICE (17) (D)** 11 10 7 **Fern O'Brien(5) 137**
Runs: 32 Wins: 7(GS,G) Places: 5 £75,109
Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: Mrs Carolyn Kendrick

16 **43**-31L1 **POET LAUREATE (31) (D)** 6 10 7 ..... **F Gordon 141**
Runs: 8 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 2 £11,507
Trainer: C Gordon Owner: Ms Jane Southall

VISOR: No. 11 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15
CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: Nos. 2, 9.

SP FORECAST: 13-2 Great Fleet, 7 Poet Laureate, 8 Hot Fuss, Live Conti, The Hardest Geezer, Wilful, 10 Spectacularsunrise, Go Dante, 12 Others.

GUIDE: KNICKERBOCKERGLORY bumped into **Go Dante** when filling second place on his seasonal return at Sandown (2m, sft) in December. The 10-year-old is entitled to improve for that outing and can defy a 2lb higher mark here. The latter cannot be discounted, but does arguably save his best for the Esher venue. With that in mind, **Great Fleet** could prove to be the main threat to his stablemate now switched to handicaps for the first time. Others to note are **Live Conti**, **Poet Laureate** and **The Hardest Geezer**.

4.05 MPM FLOORING HANDICAP CHASE
£10,562 (3) 2m 6f 50yds (11)

1 LLPP-PP **TAHMURAS (26)** P Nicholls 9 12-0 ..... **F Keighley(7) –**
2 232L-47 **WESTERNINTHEPARK (41)** O Murphy 8 11-12 ..... **S Bowen ★137**
3 2253/30- **GERICAULT ROQUE (311)** D Pipe 10 11-12 ..... **H Cobden 134**
4 12/11-24 **MARGARET'S LEGACY (41)** W Greatrex 9 11-11 ..... **J Bowen 136**
5 4232/3-L **STORMINHOME (20)** D Skelton 9 11-3 ..... **K Woods 51**
6 1/53P-13 ● **HOLD UP LA COLMINE (43) (C)** P Hobbs & J White 9 11-3 **C Pritchard(3) 134**
7 21P2-62 **AVIATION (30)** L Wadham 7 11-1 ..... **T Cannon 132**
8 224F-23 **AS THE FELLA SAYS (34)** N Henderson 7 11-0 ..... **N De Boinville 131**
9 3F5-432 **SHELDON (2)** Seamus Mullins 10 10-13 ..... **Doubtful 131**
10 F3-4251 **IMPATIENT (25)** J & A O'Neill 8 10-13 ..... **Jonjo O'Neill Jr 132**
11 13-2L32 **JOE COTTON (15)** J Scott 8 10-10 ..... **L Williams 133**
12 4822-1L **OFFICER OF STATE (34)** G & J Moore 7 10-5 ..... **C Quinn 132**

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 11 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 10
CHEEK PIECES: No. 7 HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 5 Margaret's Legacy, 11-2 Westerninthepark, 6 Aviation, As The Fella Says, 7 Gericault Roque, Impatient, 8 Hold Up La Colmine, 10 Joe Cotton, 12 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Gavin Sheehan 22% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** G & J Moore 8% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.15 Saint Davy (cheek pieces), Guard The Moon (cheek pieces), 2.25 Followango (cheek pieces), Bluey (wind surgery), 3.35 No Ordinary Joe (wind surgery), Live Conti (hood, tongue strap), 4.05 Tahmuras (blinkers). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.50 No Questions Asked. 3.35 Hot Fuss(hcp hdl). 4.05 Margaret's Legacy(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Queensbury Boy** (1.15) 219 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.40 **Lifetime In Milan** from Donnchadh Doyle in Ireland to C Gordon.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) R Beckett 100% (3 wins and 2 places from 5 runners), K Bailey & M Nicholls 75% (2/1/4), Miss L Perratt 75% (1/2/4), N Henderson 71% (3/2/7), A King 67% (3/3/9), J Snowden 67% (3/3/9), James Owen 62% (5/11/26), A Balding 60% (5/1/10), D Killahena & G McPherson 60% (2/1/5), S A Harris 60% (1/2/5), K R Burke 57% (1/3/7), D Skelton 56% (5/5/18), G Boughey 54% (3/4/13), E Bethell 50% (2/3/10), K P De Foy 50% (2/0/4).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Brian Hughes 64% (5 wins and 2 places from 11 runners), Jonathan Burke 64% (3/4/11), Harry Skelton 62% (4/4/13), Paddy Bradley 62% (3/5/13), Freddie Keighley 60% (1/2/5), Oisin McSweeney 60% (2/1/5), Pierre Jamin 60% (2/1/5), Tom Bellamy 60% (4/5/15), Pat Cosgrave 59% (4/6/17), Marco Ghiani 56% (4/5/16), Charles Bishop 55% (2/4/11).

Gid could be very good says Harry

By **David Yates**

HARRY FRY yesterday warned punters not to write off outsider Gidleigh Park in tomorrow's BetMGM Clarence House Chase, insisting: "We don't know how good he is."

The eight-year-old is William Hill's 15-2 fourth choice for Ascot's Grade One test over two miles and a furlong, with the chances of his three rivals Il Etait Temps (8-15), Jonbon (9-2) and Thistle Ask (7-1) preferred by the Leeds firm.

But Fry, above, is in no doubt Bryan Carver's mount belongs in the big league.

Gidleigh Park returned to action with a second to Jango Baie in the Grade Two 1965 Chase over Ascot's two miles and five furlongs in November and Fry admitted: "I'm kicking myself for running him over the wrong trip.

"Proper soft winter ground and two miles will be ideal. We don't know how good he is – but I'm looking forward to finding out!"

Willie Mullins' Mighty Park marked his Rules debut with a 38-length victory in a maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse yesterday – and is now as short as 14-1 for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March.

A TOTAL of 5,031,640 people went racing in Britain last year, an increase of 4.8 per cent on 2024 – and the first time the figure has exceeded five million since 2019.

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LUDLOW: Good to soft-soft in places

12.32–ANNIE EXPRESS (T McCain-Mitchell, 9-2) 1; Anytrixwilldo (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Haut Folin (10-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 4½l, 8l. (R L Llewellyn; 2-1 fav Shot Boii). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.20, £1.60, £3.00. exacta: £26.70. tricast: £152.62. trifecta: £178.60. CSF: £22.15.

1.07–CATCHINTSAVO (S Twiston-Davies, 8-11 fav) 1; Seaniecon (10-3) 2; La Vish (150-1) 3. 13 ran. nk, 32l. (A Honeyball). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.10, £1.70, £40.40. exacta: £4.50. trifecta: £597.00. CSF: £4.17.

1.42–MONDOUI'BOY (B R Jones, 11-10 fav) 1; Island Bridge (9-4 2nd fav) 2; Plains Drifter (7-1) 3. 11 ran. 4½l, 11l. (B Pauling). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £1.10, £1.80. exacta: £4.50. trifecta: £15.70. CSF: £4.05. Non-runner: Passing Diamond.

2.17–MOVE WITH THE BEAT (Isabelle Ryder, 8-1) 1; Zoeman (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Jaitroplaclasse (12-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 2l, nk. (J Snowden; 10-3 fav Another Folly). Tote: £9.00; pl £2.80, £1.50, £3.80. exacta: £60.20. tricast: £392.83. trifecta: £652.60. CSF: £42.19.

2.52–RAILWAY BELL (J J Burke, 16-5 2nd fav) 1; Ip Up (10-3) 2; Tour Ovalie (3-1 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 3l, 2l. (F O'Brien). Tote: £4.20; pl £1.40, £1.60, £1.50. exacta: £16.00. tricast: £33.84. trifecta: £37.90. CSF: £15.17.

3.27–JAVA POINT (Mr F Philipson-Stow, 8-1) 1; Fil D'ariane (40-1) 2; Take All (5-1) 3. 9 ran. 2l, ½l. (Lemos Souza; 6-4 fav St Cuthbert's Cave). Tote: £9.00; pl £1.90, £7.40, £1.30. exacta: £286.30. trifecta: £1417.30. CSF: £213.25. Non-runner: Pyleigh Court.

4.02–STARS ALIGN (F Gordon, 5-1) 1; Steal A Glance (6-1) 2; L'amandine (9-2 2nd fav) 3. 11 ran. ¾l, 2½l. (N Henderson; 9-4 fav Graceful Glance). Tote: £6.00; pl £2.10, £2.00, £2.50. exacta: £39.50. trifecta: £257.10. CSF: £34.48.

Placepot: £104.90
(Race 1) 3, 5, 4; (2) 1, 11, 9; (3) 7, 5, 11; (4) 4, 8, 7; (5) 5, 4, 2; (6) 4, 1, 7;
Quadpot: £25.70

NEWCASTLE: Good to soft-good in places

11.45–GAELIC ROVER (B Hughes, 3-10 fav) 1; Roarin' Success (66-1) 2; Who's Glen (11-2) 3. 12 ran. 10l, 5½l. (Ruth Jefferson). Tote: £1.30; pl £1.02, £10.80, £1.20. exacta: £40.70. trifecta: £260.20. CSF: £42.58.

12.15–IS THIS FOR REAL (L Harrison, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Madame La Papillon (13-8 fav) 2; Karma De Cotte (200-1) 3. 11 ran. 2½l, 23l. (F O'Brien). Tote: £4.90; pl £1.40, £1.70, £24.40. exacta: £13.30. trifecta: £811.80. CSF: £9.93. Non-runner: Lyric.

12.50–MOON PHASES (D R Fox, 9-2) 1; Postponed

AFTERNOON RESULTS

Quantock Hills (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Jus De Citron (8-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. nk, ¾l. (L Russell & M Scudamore; 15-8 fav Fat Harry). Tote: £5.50; pl £2.90, £2.30. exacta: £24.50. tricast: £136.89. trifecta: £159.80. CSF: £22.28. Non-runner: Powerofjet.

1.25–LEWISHAM GROVE (Sean Quinlan, 9-4 fav) 1; Loulou Madrik (125-1) 2; Port Station (9-1) 3; Chemoulin (16-1) 4. 16 ran. 2½l, 7½l, 1¾l. (J Candlish). Tote: £4.60; pl £1.90, £11.00, £2.50. exacta: £293.10. trifecta: £830.00. CSF: £332.16.

2.00–UPTOWN HARRY (C Maggs, 16-1) 1; Shadow Chaser (11-2) 2; Court At Slip (11-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 8½l, 5l. (Mrs J Walton; 11-4 fav Jamesieconn). Tote: £22.10; pl £6.40, £2.50, £2.60. exacta: £148.70. tricast: £1031.95. trifecta: £2426.40. CSF: £105.21. Non-runner: Donna's Double.

2.35–CHER MONSIEUR (C O'Farrell, 11-4 fav) 1; Drop Kick (10-3 2nd fav) 2; Cher Tara (25-1) 3; Scairp Dubh (17-2) 4. H'cap 16 ran. nk, 1¼l, ½l. (N Mulholland). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.10, £1.10, £7.40, £2.90. exacta: £13.30. tricast: £204.21. trifecta: £278.30. CSF: £11.99. Non-runner: Leader Wing.

3.10–ALWAYS A REASON (R Chapman, 9-1) 1; Empty Nest (6-1) 2; Too Cool Forshrule (4-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 2½l, 3½l. (R Menzies; 9-4 fav Tommy Combats). Tote: £10.00; pl £2.10, £2.20, £1.70. exacta: £83.60. tricast: £251.72. trifecta: £347.30. CSF: £62.95. Non-runner: King Horse.

3.45–RONNIE RUSSET (B Hughes, 6-1) 1; Cowboy Casanova (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Diamond White (9-2) 3. 15 ran. 11l, 2l. (J O'Keeffe; 2-1 fav Kilaro). Tote: £7.00; pl £1.60, £2.00, £1.30. exacta: £50.00. trifecta: £193.30. CSF: £30.85. Non-runner: Red Dart.

Placepot: £116.40
(Race 1) 3, 12, 9; (2) 4, 10, 5; (3) 5, 4; (4) 8, 9, 11; (5) 12, 9, 8; (6) 16, 5, 4, 7;
Quadpot: £70.00

WINCANTON: Heavy-soft in places

12.07–MAJOR FORTUNE (H Skelton, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Not A Light (13-2) 2; Maximum Offers (10-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 3l, 12l. (D Skelton; 15-8 fav Golan Loop). Tote: £4.80; pl £1.60, £2.20, £3.20. exacta: £29.50. tricast: £209.64. trifecta: £207.10. CSF: £27.20.

12.42–GAELIC PRIDE (S Bowen, 2-9 fav) 1; Unknown Entity (7-2 2nd fav) 2; One Island (13-2) 3. 10 ran. hd, 15l. (W Greatrex). Tote: £1.23; pl £1.02, £1.10, £1.70. exacta: £1.90. trifecta: £4.40. CSF: £2.00. Non-runners: Hadrianus, Shielas Well.

1.17–SINCHI ROCA (C Pritchard, 3-1) 1; Wolf Walker (10-11 fav) 2; Liam Mera Kai (9-4 2nd fav) 3. 12 ran. 2½l, 11l. (S Hosie). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.10, £1.10, £1.30. exacta: £5.90. trifecta: £11.00. CSF: £6.59.

1.52–MR ZEE (H Reed, 14-1) 1; Postponed Legacy (11-2) 2; Morning Mayhem (15-8 fav) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 3l, hd. (M Blake). Tote: £17.50; pl £4.30, £1.80, £1.30. exacta: £111.00. tricast: £220.52. trifecta: £590.30. CSF: £96.41.

2.27–LUCKY BERE (H Cobden, 15-2) 1; Le Soleil Reve (4-1 fav) 2; Meatloaf (13-2) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 3½l, 1½l. (K Woollacott). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.50, £1.50, £2.60. exacta: £39.30. tricast: £213.85. trifecta: £283.90. CSF: £39.86.

3.02–CHAMPAGNE CHIC (L Williams, 10-3 2nd fav) 1; Turndlightsdownlow (3-1 fav) 2; A Perfect Day (7-2) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1¾l, 12l. (J Scott). Tote: £4.60; pl £1.90, £1.50, £1.30. exacta: £18.20. tricast: £37.81. trifecta: £55.50. CSF: £14.42.

3.37–RIVERS CORNER (B J Powell, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Isaac Des Obeaux (9-4 fav) 2; Destroytheevidence (7-2) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 2l, hd. (J Tizzard). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.80, £1.90. exacta: £11.10. trifecta: £38.80. CSF: £9.89.

4.10–TROJAN TALE (J Tudor, 12-1) 1; Fine Tuning (7-4 fav) 2; Elusive Pb (16-1) 3. 10 ran. 7½l, ½l. (Dan Horsford). Tote: £13.00; pl £4.20, £1.10, £5.40. exacta: £49.40. trifecta: £604.70. CSF: £34.05. Non-runner: Beau Speed.

Placepot: £14.20
(Race 1) 3, 8, 6; (2) 3, 7, 11; (3) 6, 7, 3; (4) 11, 9, 5; (5) 12, 10, 2; (6) 10, 4, 7;
Quadpot: £3.90

WOLVERHAMPTON SSR

THE SCOUT

5.00 Seraphic
5.30 Fools Rush In
6.00 Mythical Bay
6.30 Forever Noah
7.00 Whitcombe Rockstar
7.30 Damzon
8.00 Highfield Comrade
8.30 Rogue De Vega

5.00 APPRENTICE HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6) 1m 1f 104yds (9 declared)

1 (9) 2133-11 **FRANCESI (6)** A Carroll 7 10-1(4ex) — Myla Coppins(5) 68
2 (3) 033/LLL- **GOLDEN MOVE (J18)** C Kellett 6 9-12 — Rose Dawes 51
3 (7) 113353- **STIPULATION (19) (C&D)** M Loughnane 5 9-12 — D J Murphy(5) 70
4 (5) 2L93-21 ● **SERAPHIC (5) (C)** D Killahena & G McPherson 6 9-12(5ex) — A Egan(5) 67
5 (4) /9563-6 **ARTH'S GOLD (13)** R Hannon 4 9-11 — T Cameron(3) 71
6 (1) 611D23- **DINGWALL (27) (C&D,F) (T)** I Jardine 5 9-8 — C Tuke(5) ★73
7 (8) 68538L- **SEVENTY (30)** R Burdon 4 9-6 — P Edwards(5) 70
8 (6) 03146-6 **MAGIC RUNNER (14) (C&D)** R Carr 4 9-5 — Taryn Langley 72
9 (2) L44L9-7 **PRINCE ALI (14) (C&D)** T Faulkner 8 9-4 — Zoe Lewis(5) 70

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 9 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Seraphic, 11-4 Francesi, 5 Stipulation, 13-2 Dingwall, 8 Arth's Gold, 12 Seventy, Magic Runner, 25 Prince Ali, 33 Golden Move.

5.30 BET 10 GET 40 WITH BETMGM HANDICAP
£4,711 (6) 1m 142yds (8)

1 (2) 2314-11 **LATIN (10) (C&D,F)** James Owen 5 9-13(5ex) — P Bradley 69
2 (6) 08L94-1 ● **FOOLS RUSH IN (10) (C&D)** R Carr 8 9-12(4ex) — JP Sullivan ★72
3 (4) 14267-5 **PESSOA (10) (C&D)** A Wintle 7 9-8 — Taryn Langley(5) 66
4 (8) 50047 7- **IMPLIED VOLATILITY (104)** J Candlish 4 9-7 — L Morris 69
5 (7) 15L736- **ROMANOVICH (34) (C&D)** J G O'Shea 7 9-7 — W Carson 66
6 (5) 141332- **THE DARK BARON (20) (C&D)** Kathy Turner 4 9-6 — Laura Coughlan(3) 71
7 (1) 26U2-31 **IMOLA (10)** Joey Ramsden 5 9-5(5ex) — L Edmunds 70
8 (3) 5L/09LL- **LIKE MAGIC (172) (D)** M Young 5 9-4 — C Hutchinson 59

VISOR: Nos. 1, 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Imola, 3 Latin, Fools Rush In, 5 The Dark Baron, 14 Implied Volatility, 16 Pessoa, 25 Romanovich, 100 Like Magic.

6.00 NOVICE STAKES 3YO
£6,480 (3) 1m 1f 104yds (5)

1 (2) 5- **FELIX GEM (25)** E J-Houghton 9-7 — C Bishop 68
2 (4) 472- ● **MYTHICAL BAY (20) (F)** A Balding 9-7 — C Hutchinson ★83
3 (5) 97- **NANDO'S PRIDE (44)** M Loughnane 9-7 — D Muscutt 33
4 (3) 4- **KINDLY QUEEN (30)** R Beckett 9-2 — M Ghiani 73
5 (1) L- **STRIKING FLAME (32)** Mrs N Evans 9-2 — G Mangan 14

SP FORECAST: 4-11 Mythical Bay, 4 Kindly Queen, 5 Felix Gem, 100 Nando's Pride, 150 Striking Flame.

6.30 JOIN THE MIDNITE MOVEMENT HANDICAP
£4,711 (6) 6f 20yds (11)

1 (4) 21L793- **SOME NIGHTMARE (34) (C&D)** J G O'Shea 9 9-9 — W Carson 62
2 (1) 05040-8 **CALI CASE (13)** Joe Ponting 4 9-9 — Charlie Tucker(7) 65
3 (3) 3163L3- **NORDIC GLORY (25) (C&D)** M Attwater 7 9-8 — P Bradley 65
4 (6) L69134- **GILT EDGE (30) (C&D)** C Mason 10 9-8 — G Mangan 66
5 (5) /60L8-8 **THE CUTEST (12)** D Shaw 5 9-6 — D Keenan 56
6 (2) 8883L-3 ● **FOREVER NOAH (12)** Joey Ramsden 5 9-5 — L Edmunds 64
7 (8) 55L99-2 **AUTUMN ANGEL (10) (C&D)** A Carroll 7 9-3 — M Ghiani 62
8 (10) 558784- **PIPERSTOWN (41) (C&D)** K Frost 5 9-1 — O Stammers 57
9 (7) 52367-4 **ELDEYAAR (12) (C&D)** A Brittain 7 9-0 — C Hardie 65
10 (11) 4805-55 **BOSSY PARKER (7) (C)** T & S Culhane & S Barclay 6 9-0 — Doubtful 61
11 (12) L8L566- **ROGUE THUNDER (39) (C&D)** P Morris 6 9-0 — D E Hogan 60
12 (9) 4867-2L **TOMMYTWOHOOTS (7) (C&D)** S A Harris 8 9-0 — A Rawlinson ★67

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: No. 12 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 9 HOOD: Nos. 5, 11.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Autumn Angel, 5 Forever Noah, 6 Some Nightmare, Nordic Glory, Gilt Edge, 8 Eldeyaar, Piperstown, 10 Rogue Thunder, 12 Others.

7.00 BETMGM SUPPORTS SAFER GAMBLING HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 1m 142yds (10)

1 (8) 5L63L4- ● **WHITCOMBE ROCKSTAR (21)** Kieran Burke 7 9-13 — D Muscutt 91
2 (9) 879976- **MR BALOO (25) (C&D)** R Hannon 5 9-11 — T Cameron(7) 93
3 (6) 3L578-7 **EPICTETUS (14)** J Osborne 6 9-10 — J Hart ★94
4 (5) 433761- **ADVANCING (20) (C&D,F)** M Botti 4 9-10 — M Ghiani 89
5 (7) 058916- **RAJAPOUR (20) (C&D)** D O'Meara 6 9-5 — D Nolan 90
6 (3) 5L1L25- **PALADIN (91)** K Frost 5 9-4 — O Stammers 92
7 (10) 57/1467- **SEA FOUNDER (132)** R Hughes 4 9-4 — F Marsh 91
8 (1) 462372- **HITCHED (16) (C&D)** D M Simcock 6 9-4 — L Morris 90
9 (2) 390610- **CEPHALUS (41) (C&D)** C Banham 7 9-3 — J Haynes 87
10 (4) 40441-8 **FIRST GREYED (10) (C&D)** T Faulkner 8 8-9 — Zoe Lewis(7) 89

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 9 VISOR: Nos. 1, 5, 10
TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Advancing, 10-3 Hitched, 8 Whitcombe Rockstar, 10 Rajapour, Epictetus, Sea Founder, Paladin, 12 Mr Baloo, 14 Others.

7.30 CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 1)
£3,140 (6) 1m 4f 51yds (9)

1 (6) 84025-1 ● **DAMZON (8)** A Carroll 7 9-13 — M Ghiani 60
2 (7) 66L023- **BREAK POINT (32)** James Owen 6 9-9 — D Keenan 55
3 (5) LL1896- **ICE OPERA (32)** G Harris 5 9-9 — F Marsh 50
4 (3) 882567- **IRV (140) (C)** M Hammond 10 9-9 — A Brookes(3) 58
5 (2) 3454-56 **RAMPANT (10)** P Morris 6 9-9 — P Bradley 52
6 (9) 479575- **STARFIGHTER (20) (C&D)** M Loughnane 10 9-9 — D Muscutt 59
7 (8) 573254- **VIRTUAL HUG (20) (C&D)** Mrs N Evans 8 9-9 — G Mangan ★61
8 (1) 9494LL- **DANCING BAY (73)** J Candlish 4 9-6 — L Edmunds 55
9 (4) 44576-4 **IGNITION (10)** T Faulkner 4 9-6 — L Morris 55

VISOR: Nos. 5, 9 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: Evens Damzon, 4 Break Point, 7 Starfighter, 8 Ignition, 14 Virtual Hug, 16 Rampant, 20 Irv, 25 Dancing Bay, Ice Opera.

8.00 CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 2)
£3,140 (6) 1m 4f 51yds (8)

1 (3) 86354-1 ● **HIGHFIELD COMRADE (10) (F)** J & S Quinn 4 9-11 — J Hart 52
2 (1) 675156- **ARRANMORE (144)** M Hammond 9 9-9 — A Brookes(3) 57
3 (8) 6L30- **BELLE OF KT (32)** J S Moore 5 9-9 — Taylor Fisher(3) 55
4 (2) 277689- **BLACK SMOKE (20) (C)** M Loughnane 9 9-9 — D Muscutt 55
5 (6) 61630-8 **CELEBRATING ETHEL (10)** A Carroll 7 9-9 — M Ghiani 53
6 (5) 9L08-28 **LAWMANS BLIS (2) (C&D)** S A Harris 8 9-9 — L Edmunds 56
7 (4) 8735L6- **WARRIOR LION (104)** J Candlish 6 9-9 — L Morris ★61
8 (7) L4439-6 **HAVACHOC (4)** P Morris 4 9-6 — P Bradley 54

BLINKERS: No. 4
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 10-11 Highfield Comrade, 9-2 Warrior Lion, 7 Arranmore, 10 Havachoc, 12 Celebrating Ethel, 14 Lawmans Blis, 16 Belle Of Kt, 25 Black Smoke.

8.30 HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 5f 21yds (7)

1 (7) 162526- **SIR BENEDICT (34) (D)** T & S Culhane & S Barclay 8 9-9 — S Donohoe 61
2 (2) 47696-1 ● **ROGUE DE VEGA (14) (C&D,F)** A Brittain 6 9-9 — C Hardie ★64
3 (5) 3345-63 **HENERY HAWK (7) (C&D) (T)** Miss L Perratt 7 9-8 — Doubtful 62
4 (8) 0/LL8L1- **DEVILWALA (295) (C)** D Shaw 8 9-8 — L Edmunds 61
5 (4) 3442-22 **COLORS OF FREEDOM (2) (C&D)** Joe Ponting 6 9-4 — G Mangan 63
6 (1) L6862-6 **SULTAN OF OJ (14)** T Faulkner 4 9-2 — L Morris 60
7 (6) L7333-0 **SHATIN VENTURE (15) (D) (T)** Miss L Perratt 5 9-1 — J Hart 62
8 (3) L859L-6 **SYMBOL OF HOPE (14) (D)** A Wintle 8 9-1 — F Marsh 52

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 6, 8 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 2 Rogue De Vega, 3 Colors Of Freedom, 4 Devilwala, 6 Sultan Of Oj, 7 Sir Benedict, 12 Shatin Venture, 50 Symbol of Hope.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Luke Morris 12% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Carroll 9% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 6.30 Cali Case (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 7.30 Ignition (visor). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.30 The Dark Baron(hcp). 6.30 Bossy Parker. 7.00 First Greyed(hcp), Paladin(hcp). 7.30 Break Point(hcp), Ignition. 8.00 Warrior Lion(hcp). 8.30 Colors Of Freedom. **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Shatin Venture** (8.30) & **Henery Hawk** (8.30) 275 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 7.00 **Paladin** from C Johnston to K Frost. 7.30 **Break Point** from O Murphy to James Owen. 8.30 **Sir Benedict** from Mrs Stella Barclay to T & S Culhane & S Barclay.

MARKET RASEN RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

12.18 Shan't Wait
12.53 Hold The Serve
1.28 HEART OVER HEAD (nap)
2.05 Mahons Glory
2.40 The Flaggy Shore
3.10 El Rojo Grande
3.45 Giovanni Change

12.18 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HCAP HURDLE
£4,225 (Class 5) 2m 125yds (10 declared)

1 33-961 **THE RESDEV TYKE (21) (F)** M & D Easterby 5 12-0 — Ben Smith(3) 98
2 74L5-92 ● **SHAN'T WAIT (33)** C Longsdon 6 12-0 — D McConville(3) 99
3 59L **DRIVER'S PICK (28)** D McCain 5 12-0 — C Maggs(3) 91
4 9-U74 **AND SHE WAS (50)** A King 5 11-11 — P Armson(3) 91
5 67LB/58 **EVER READY (25)** Mrs P Sly 7 11-10 — J Andrews 92
6 453644 **WIND YOUR NECK IN (15)** S England 7 11-8 — T Midgley(3) ★104
7 24-847F **CHARACTER TESTING (15)** M Walford 5 11-7 — W Maggs 98
8 54-0L **TROOP SHIP (43)** Mrs M Rowley 8 11-3 — Shane Quinlan 95
9 0431-12 **BLUENOSE BELLE (53) (C&D)** R Phillips 8 11-3 — F Lambert 95
10 LP-54F4 **KALLY DES BRUYERES (16)** David Dennis 6 11-0 — T McCain-Mitchell 95

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 6, 7.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 The Resdev Tyke, 11-4 Shan't Wait, 8 Character Testing, 10 Bluenose Belle, Wind Your Neck In, And She Was, 12 Others.

12.53 NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 2m 2f 140yds (8)

1 1-01 ● **HOLD THE SERVE (31)** O Murphy 6 11-12 — L Saunders(5) ★121
2 31-2 **CONSTANTINIAN (74)** O Signy 6 11-5 — J M Davies 99
3 B2/L7- **INCA (599)** C Hobson 8 11-5 — B Poste –
4 12 **SHOTGUN RIDER (43)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-5 — T McCain-Mitchell(5) 111
5 44 **TYPHOON WARRIOR (45)** D Skelton 5 11-5 — C J Todd –
6 600 **YUMMY (30)** D Skelton 5 11-5 — L Harrison 56
7 25-57 **DILLY'S GUNNER (21)** M & D Easterby 5 10-12 — T Midgley(3) 95
8 37-6 **REDEEMING LOVE (76)** M Walford 6 10-12 — J Hamilton 95

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 4.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Hold The Serve, 4 Shotgun Rider, 6 Constantinian, 13-2 Typhoon Warrior, 25 Dilly's Gunner, 50 Redeeming Love, Inca, 66 Yummy.

1.28 HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,809 (4) 2m 7f 16yds (10)

1 P-74731 ● **HEART OVER HEAD (28)** F O'Brien 7 12-2 — J J Burke 110
2 F-84324 **HUDSON (54) (T)** M Bowen 5 12-0 — S Fenelon(5) 107
3 1-P6312 **TZARMIX (37)** A Ralph 8 11-11 — T McCain-Mitchell(5) 109
4 23-7551 **BORN IN THE WEST (31)** S England 7 11-9 — T Midgley(3) ★111
5 01511-L **HENRYSBROTHERJACK (60) (D)** O Murphy 7 11-8 — L Stones(3) 106
6 14-5311 **AVADA KEDAVRA (32)** D Bridgwater 7 11-8 — B J Powell 107
7 4L-PP4P **FACE D'MUSIC (17)** Katy Price 7 11-6 — Shane Quinlan(3) 108
8 8/2425-1 **GOTTHEREINTHEEND (21) (C)** R L Llewellyn 7 11-6 — L Harrison 106
9 091133 **PRINCESSE MILANIA (41)** M Walford 6 11-1 — J Hamilton 109
10 124-315 **SEAHOUSES (43) (C&D)** F Brennan 6 10-12 — Isabelle Ryder(7) 108

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Heart Over Head, 4 Born In The West, Gotthereintheend, 11-2 Tzarmix, 6 Avada Kedavra, 10 Princesse Milania, 14 Hudson, 16 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 18% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** O Murphy 26% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.28 Face d'Music (blinkers), 3.10 One Million Dreams (blinkers), 3.45 Vision De Maine (blinkers), Heard That (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 12.53 Shotgun Rider (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.28 Seahouses(hcp hdl), Tzarmix(hcp hdl). 2.05 Doyen Du Bar(hcp ch). 2.40 Galaxy Star. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Hudson** (1.28) & **Stratagem** (2.05) 310 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** No Qualifiers.

2.05 VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (ITV4)
£23,414 (2) 2m 5f 89yds (8)

1 1P9P-3P **MINELLA DRAMA (21)** 11 12 0 — B Hughes★149
Runs: 30 Wins: 8(S,GS,G) Places: 9 £258,485
Trainer: D McCain Owner: Green Day Racing

2 L/4P2-6P **TWO FOR GOLD (27)** 13 11 11 — T Bellamy 147
Runs: 35 Wins: 11(S,GS,G) Places: 7 £282,325
T: K Bailey & M Nicholls O: May We Never Be Found Out Partnership

3 5U4-126 **BILL BAXTER (41) (D)** 10 11 7 — H Bannister 145
Runs: 28 Wins: 7(S,GS) Places: 5 £174,714
Trainer: W Greatrex Owner: Glassex Ltd

4 2131-1P **THE FLIER BEGLEY (181) (C&D)** 11 11 4 — J Hogan 146
Runs: 34 Wins: 6(GS,G) Places: 13 £130,628
Trainer: G Hanmer Owner: Mr J M Tomlinson

5 12-2L45 ● **MAHONS GLORY (41)** 10 11 3 — Lee Edwards 147
Runs: 31 Wins: 4(GS,G) Places: 12 £84,847
Trainer: D Cunha Owner: C Nightingale & Hold My Beer Partnersh

6 1121-32 **DOYEN DU BAR (20)** 10 11 1 — C Bewley 148
Runs: 14 Wins: 6(S,GS) Places: 5 £64,088
Trainer: N Richards Owner: Mr Eric A Elliott

7 U111-15 **FILANDERER (49) (C)** 10 10 3 — J J Burke 147
Runs: 18 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 2 £30,707
Trainer: H Morrison Owner: Mrs M D W Morrison

8 1LL/4P-4 **STRATAGEM (35) (D,T)** 10 10 2 — S Fenelon(5) 132
Runs: 19 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 1 £52,822
Trainer: M Bowen Owner: Mr Mickey Bowen

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 8.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Doyen Du Bar, 7-2 Bill Baxter, 4 Mahons Glory, 6 Filanderer, 7 The Flier Begley, 10 Minella Drama, 20 Two For Gold, 25 Stratagem.
GUIDE: Doyen Du Bar has lost little in defeat on both outings since switching to Nicky Richards' yard and he must enter calculations off the same mark as his latest second at Wetherby (1m7f, sft). However, the son of Doyen is far from certain to stay today's extended 2m5f distance and **MAHONS GLORY** rates as the most solid proposition. The Dylan Cunha-trained 10-year-old arrives on the back of a creditable fifth in the Becher over the big fences at Aintree (3m2f, sft) and a drop back in trip looks ideal. Reopposing sixth **Bill Baxter** completes the shortlist.

2.40 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (LISTED) (ITV4)
£19,932 (1) 2m 125yds (10)

1 **ANALITHEIA (42) (D,T)** 5 11 4 — C Gethings 104
Runs: 1 Wins: 1(S) £2,178
Trainer: Nicky Martin Owner: Bradley Partnership

2 7-12 **I C U IN MY DREAMS (31) (F)** 6 11 4 — B Hughes 93
Runs: 3 Wins: 1(G) Places: 1 £1,129
Trainer: D McCain Owner: Craig & Laura Buckingham

3 **JOLLIE DAME (57)** 5 11 4 — L Harrison 105
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £1,004
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Mr Ian Lawrence

4 13 **KATIOS QUEEN (40)** 5 11 4 — C J Todd 109
Runs: 2 Wins: 1(GS) Places: 1 £4,591
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Mrs R Vaughan

2.50 MIDNITE AWC MIDDLE DISTANCE TRIAL HCAP
£23,193 (2) 1m 2f 42yds (14)

1 (13) 2L4L6L- **MILITARY ACADEMY (16) (D) (T)** J Chapple-Hyam 5 9-12 — H Doyle 102
2 (14) 304973- **TEUMESSIAS FOX (60) (C&D,F) (T)** A Balding 7 9-9 — A Redman(7) 105
3 (1) 114231- **BEYLERBEYI (97) (T)** I Williams 6 9-8 — B Loughnane 105
4 (8) 121135- ● **KING'S CODE (21) (D) (T)** P Evans 6 9-6 — P Cosgrave 107
5 (12) 31/17- **REGAL ULIXES (210) (D) (T)** A Balding 4 9-2 — O Murphy 99
6 (9) 0158L5- **STORM CATCHER (32) (C&D) (T)** S Pearce 8 9-1 — J Mitchell 108
7 (3) 415321- **NIGHT BREEZE (160) (T)** I Williams 6 8-13 — Kaiya Fraser 104
8 (4) 4/L8511- **PARLANDO (21) (D) (T)** I Williams 7 8-12 — R Kavanagh(5) 106
9 (6) 92/2113- **CRISTO (250) (D) (T)** R Hannon 4 8-11 — S M Levey 103
10 (10) 61561-1 **MIDNIGHT LION (15) (C&D,F)** J Goldie 6 8-11 — Amie Waugh(3) 106
11 (11) 2/12- **TIME LOOP (25) (D,F) (T)** W Haggas 5 8-10 — T Marquand 101
12 (2) 786372- **DARK MOON RISING (97)** K Ryan 7 8-10 — O McSweeney 106
13 (7) 332512- **ZRYAN (21)** D O'Meara 5 8-9 — M Winn ★109
14 (5) 7122- **FLAME OF FOREST (20)** K R Burke 4 8-4 — N Currie 107

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 12 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Time Loop, 5 Regal Ulixes, 6 Parlando, 8 Beylerbeyi, 10 Teumessias Fox, Night Breeze, 12 Zryan, Cristo, Midnight Lion, Flame Of Forest, 14 Others.

3.20 MIDNITE AWC SPRINT TRIAL HCAP (ITV4)
£23,193 (2) 6f (14)

1 10341-4 **TEN POUNDS (15) (C,D)** 5 9 12 — H Crouch 108
(14) Runs: 11 Wins: 5(F,A,G) Places: 1 £117,889
Trainer: Joey Ramsden Owner: Valmont

2 1283/7-0 **WILTSHIRE (15) (C&D,T)** 6 9 8 — T Marquand 98
(11) Runs: 14 Wins: 4(A,GS) Places: 2 £74,487
Trainer: W Haggas Owner: The Marathon Partnership

3 25322-1 **POCKLINGTON (15) (C&D)** 5 9 7 — P J McDonald 107
(8) Runs: 11 Wins: 3(A) Places: 4 £90,605
Trainer: G Oldroyd Owner: Bond Thoroughbred Limited

4 11402 4- **BERKSHIRE WHISPER (30) (C&D,T)** 4 9 7 — O Murphy 107
(4) Runs: 8 Wins: 3(A) Places: 2 £98,590
Trainer: A Balding Owner: Berkshire Parts & Panels Ltd Nol Fancl

5 82660-9 **FIVETHOUSANDTOONE (15) (C&D)** 8 9 4 — S B Kirrane 97
(13) Runs: 46 Wins: 5(A,GS) Places: 8 £227,034
Trainer: T Easterby Owner: King Power Racing Co Ltd

6 13112-6 ● **COUL ANGEL (15) (D)** 4 9 3 — R Havlin 105
(7) Runs: 16 Wins: 5(A,G) Places: 5 £50,198
Trainer: M Appleby Owner: RP Racing Ltd

7 0L0601- **GERMANIC (60) (C&D,F)** 5 9 0 — R Scott 108
(3) Runs: 14 Wins: 2(A) Places: 3 £41,923
Trainer: J Camacho Owner: Mr N O'keeffe

8 445060- **SERGEANT WILKO (118) (C&D)** 5 8 11 — S Gray 109
(5) Runs: 20 Wins: 5(S,A,GS) Places: 2 £114,845
Trainer: K Ryan Owner: King Power Racing Co Ltd

3.10 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£4,753 (5) 2m 1f 43yds (9)

1 44U536 **DISCO ANNIE (21) (F)** R Menzies 8 12-0 — C Maggs(5) 103
2 L/357-L5 **ICARE COLOMBE (30)** F O'Brien 8 12-0 — J J Burke 86
3 1/8L6P-3 **HAWK STONE (43) (T)** H Dickin 7 11-9 — J Best –
4 3LL-36L **ONE MILLION DREAMS (25)** Michael Keady 6 11-4 — J Quinlan 77
5 01/L2L4 **KITSILANO (19)** D Bridgwater 9 11-3 — B J Powell ★105
6 5664/53- **FLASHY BOY (466)** R L Llewellyn 9 10-8 — Charlie Price –
7 0L4-PP5 **WALK THE PLANK (25)** C Hobson 6 10-5 — B Poste 88
8 5-P543P **LONE SOLDIER (16)** C & A Pogson 8 10-3 — R T Dunne 102
9 5L2-252 ● **EL ROJO GRANDE (16)** Katy Price 9 10-2 — Shane Quinlan(3) 104

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 6
CHEEK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 El Rojo Grande, 4 Flashy Boy, 5 Disco Annie, 6 Icare Colombe, 8 Hawk Stone, 10 Kitsilano, 12 One Million Dreams, 14 Walk The Plank, 20 Lone Soldier.

3.45 HANDICAP CHASE
£6,865 (4) 2m 7f 191yds (8)

1 12141-L **GET UP MUSH (21)** D Skelton 8 12-2 — C J Todd 104
2 12R1-PP **HEARD THAT (33) (D)** O Murphy 7 11-10 — K Brogan 123
3 4424-13 **REALTA LIATH (34)** W Greatrex 7 11-8 — H Bannister 123
4 523P-2P **CONCETTO (52) (C&D)** S Allwood 9 11-4 — T Bellamy 123
5 24-LU84 **MY BOBBY DAZZLER (47)** Mrs M Rowley 11 11-3 — T McCain-Mitchell(5) –
6 1-1L3P3 ● **GIOVANNI CHANGE (25) (C&D)** M Walford 11 11-1 — J Hamilton 124
7 2P34-3P **VISION DE MAINE (29) (D) (T)** D Pipe 7 11-1 — J Tudor ★125
8 25-1LUL **KAYCE DUTTON (33) (C)** C & A Pogson 8 11-0 — R T Dunne 122

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 8.

SP FORECAST: 2 Realta Liath, 5 Giovanni Change, Vision De Maine, 7 Get Up Mush, 8 Heard That, 10 Kayce Dutton, My Bobby Dazzler, 12 Concetto.

NEWCASTLE SSR

THE SCOUT

12.30 True Promise
1.05 Maxi Boy
1.40 Indigo Dream
2.15 New York Minute
2.50 KING'S CODE
3.20 Coul Angel
3.55 Augustus Gloop
4.30 APIARIST (nb)

12.30 APPRENTICE HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£7,851 (Class 5) 6f (9 declared)

1 (7) 1088LL- **ABDUCTION (83) (D)** J Goldie 8 10-0 — Shay Farmer(5) 76
2 (1) 522236- ● **TRUE PROMISE (19) (C&D)** Fionn McSharry 5 9-13 — O McSweeney 79
3 (8) 150774- **PIANOFORTE (28)** J Camacho 5 9-12 — T Kiely-Marshall(3) 75
4 (6) 68617-2 **BLUE LAKOTA (15) (C&D,F)** K Ryan 4 9-11 — J Nicholls(3) 75
5 (4) 950544- **EXPERT AGENT (37) (D) (T)** S C Williams 6 9-10 — J Dace(3) 77
6 (3) 046224- **KIRKDALE (45)** E Bethell 4 9-10 — A Voikhansky 80
7 (2) 7380 6-6 **LION'S HOUSE (15) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 5 9-9 — A Redman(7) 73
8 (9) 3L96-23 **CARGIN BHUI (3)** D & N Barron 5 9-4 — R Kavanagh(3) ★81
9 (5) 133698- **JKR COBBLER (31) (C&D)** I Jardine 7 9-0 — M Tabti 76

BLINKERS: No. 6 VISOR: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 3 Blue Lakota, 7-2 Cargin Bhui, 5 Kirkdale, 7 True Promise, 8 Expert Agent, Pianoforte, 12 Abduction, Lion's House, 20 Jkr Cobbler.

1.05 APPRENTICE HANDICAP (DIV 2)
£7,851 (5) 6f (9)

1 (2) 30L223- ● **MAXI BOY (18) (C,D,F)** Fionn McSharry 9 10-0 — O McSweeney 77
2 (7) 85138-5 **DANDY MAGIC (15) (C&D)** J Goldie 4 9-13 — Rhys Elliott(3) 77
3 (5) 2459L5- **FISCAL POLICY (19) (C&D)** R Carr 7 9-13 — W Fentiman 74
4 (6) 646781- **SUPREME KING (28) (D) (T)** P Evans 6 9-11 — R Kavanagh(3) 76
5 (3) 46514-3 **JUDGMENT CALL (12) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 8 9-11 — A Jary 77
6 (1) 74417L- **YAASER (18) (C)** J Goldie 8 9-10 — Amie Waugh 78
7 (4) 301L7-6 **EXPRESS TRAIN (14) (D) (T)** A Balding 4 9-8 — A Redman(7) ★83
8 (8) 235385- **ISHE WORTH AGAMBLE (29) (D)** T Easterby 5 9-4 — J Dickson(7) 79
9 (9) 322399- **CAPTAIN VALLO (28) (C&D)** P Makin 8 9-1 — J Nicholls(3) 82

TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 8, 9.

SP FORECAST: 3 Supreme King, 4 Maxi Boy, 5 Judgment Call, 6 Dandy Magic, 8 Yaaser, Fiscal Policy, 10 Ishe Worth Agamble, 14 Express Train, 20 Captain Vallo.

1.40 FILLIES & MARES TRIAL FILLIES HANDICAP
£23,193 (2) 7f 14yds (11)

1 (1) 40/405L- **RAJINDRI (34) (D) (T)** Tom Clover 6 9-12 — T Marquand 96
2 (7) 304812- **STATEIRA (35) (C,D) (T)** A Balding 4 9-5 — O Murphy 98
3 (4) L/131- **BELA SONATA (181) (D,F) (T)** Oliver Cole 4 9-4 — H Crouch ★101
4 (6) 27/2531- ● **INDIGO DREAM (35) (D)** R O'Sullivan (IRE) 4 9-2 — J J Ryan 90
5 (8) 483301- **MOLLIE FOSTER (92) (T)** M Loughnane 4 8-13 — B Loughnane 95
6 (9) 371412- **STELLENBOSCH (27) (D) (T)** R Hannon 4 8-13 — S M Levey 98
7 (5) 9L451-5 **ENOLA GREY (7) (C,D)** G Tutty 6 8-12 — Kaiya Fraser 95
8 (10) 211211- **NIKKI SWANGO (28) (D)** A McGuinness (IRE) 5 8-11 — H Doyle 95
9 (11) 8380LL- **MERESIDE DIVA (118) (D)** D & N Barron 6 8-7 — A Mullen 97
10 (2) 6423-83 **DONNA NOOK (7) (D)** D O'Meara 4 8-7 — M Winn 100
11 (3) 11131-7 **SECOND FIDDLE (6) (C)** I Jardine 7 8-3 — N Currie 97

VISOR: No. 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 11.

SP FORECAST: 4 Stateira, 9-2 Bela Sonata, 6 Mollie Foster, 7 Nikki Swango, 8 Second Fiddle, 10 Stellenbosch, Rajindri, Donna Nook, 12 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** P J McDonald 16% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** J Goldie 12% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.40 Donna Nook (visor), 3.20 Sergeant Wilko (wind surgery), 4.30 Uniting (cheek pieces), 12.30 Expert Agent (visor). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.30 Cargin Bhui(hcp). 1.40 Second Fiddle(hcp), Stateira(hcp). 2.15 New York Minute(hcp), Wise Eagle(hcp hdl). 2.50 Time Loop. 3.55 Gold Queen Kindly. 4.30 James McHenry(hcp), Uniting(hcp). **DRAW:** High numbers have a slight advantage over 5f. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Indigo Dream** (1.40) & **Nikki Swango** (1.40) Ireland; **Dartrey** (3.55) 322 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.40 **Mollie Foster** from E Walker to M Loughnane.

2.15 MIDNITE AWC MARATHON TRIAL HANDICAP
£23,193 (2) 2m 56yds (11)

1 (1) 20/2407- **WISE EAGLE (J15) (C&D)** A Nicol 9 9-12 — B Garritty★105
2 (4) 430051- **DUKE OF OXFORD (44) (D) (T)** M Bell 6 9-9 — H Crouch 104
3 (9) 631311- **BRASIL POWER (21) (T)** G Boughey 7 9-6 — B Loughnane 102
4 (8) 3L1810- **SHERADANN (44) (D) (T)** I Williams 6 9-5 — T Marquand 101
5 (11) 7/74111- **BLAZEON FIVE (35) (D) (T)** A King 8 9-5 — J Mitchell 101
6 (2) 112/181- **BERKSHIRE SUNDANCE (37) (D) (T)** A Balding 6 9-1 — O Murphy 102
7 (6) 754231- **RIBBLE VIBE (46)** D O'Meara 5 8-13 — Jason Watson 103
8 (10) 12L913- **TRYFAN (49) (C) (T)** Harry Charlton 5 8-13 — P J McDonald 100
9 (3) 461112- ● **NEW YORK MINUTE (37) (D)** Joey Ramsden 4 8-9 — H Doyle 101
10 (5) 320L3-4 **HUMBLE SPARK (15) (C)** J Goldie 6 8-7 — Amie Waugh(3) 102
11 (7) 082261- **WEDDELL SEA (31) (C&D)** M Sowersby 8 8-2 — A Mullen 103

VISOR: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 11.

SP FORECAST: 4 Duke Of Oxford, 9-2 Berkshire Sundance, 7 Brasil Power, Ribble Vibe, Blazeon Five, 8 New York Minute, 10 Wise Eagle, Tryfan, 12 Others.

2.40 VISION DE MAINE TRIAL HCAP
£23,193 (2) 2m 1f 219yds (11)

1 (5) 5L2L1- **ROGUE ENCORE (110) (C&D) (T)** P Chapple-Hyam 5 8-12 — P J McDonald 105
2 (6) 2L0038- **DOSMAN (30) (T)** Oli Rix 5 8-10 — J Peate 101
3 (2) 003113- **UNITING (30) (C&

MAX BACK TO THE FUTURE

New engine, old look as Verstappen attempts to turn three into one again

RED BULL believe they can keep Max Verstappen in the title fight this year – with their first ever engine and a glossy new car reminiscent of the team's Formula One debut.

The Milton Keynes-based squad pulled the covers off their new car, the RB22, in Detroit overnight to reveal their first major livery changes in years.

Gone is the dark navy, matte finish of recent seasons, replaced by a brighter, glossier blue base. Red Bull say the livery is a nod to their "original look", when they first entered Formula One back in 2005.

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

But there are also signs of a new era, with the logo of new engine partner Ford featuring prominently.

As does Verstappen's new No.3, used with permission of its former owner Daniel Ricciardo, the Dutchman having lost the right to use No.1 to Lando Norris. The RB22 might prove to be Verstappen's last Red Bull car, given the clause in his contract which could let him leave for free if performance expectations are not met.

And the fact his agent has made it clear that all options will be considered if Red Bull aren't up to speed in F1's new era.

But having spent four years developing Red Bull's first in-house engine, powertrain technical director Ben Hodgkinson is optimistic that they can deliver.

He said: "I've been doing this for 27 years, so everything I do has got to be backed up by the belief I can do it. I don't think you belong in this industry if you don't believe that.

"[Giving Verstappen a fast car] is clearly the target. But if you show me a confident engineer, I'll show you one that's about to lose.

"You can never underestimate where everybody is, you always have to assume you're behind so that you always push the absolute maximum.

"It's going to be an interesting season. I'm very confident that the team I've built is incredible, I'm confident the facilities we put together are going to be benchmark.

"But we're a newcomer – we had to build factories while people started developing engines.

"We started behind, but I think the people and the facilities we've got are better than everybody else. So watch this space.

"Will we overtake them by race one? I don't know. We'll have to wait and see."

F1's new engines rely on far more electrical power than previously was the case, and managing different modes while racing at 200mph will be an additional challenge for drivers.

Verstappen has shown particular aptitude for multi-tasking behind the wheel, and Hodkinson believes he and new team-mate Isack Hadjar could have an edge over their rivals.

He said: "It's going to be a bit more for them to manage.

"The drivers that have got the most cognitive bandwidth whilst they're driving a car are the ones that are going to really stand out.

"That puts us in a really good position with the drivers that we have."

NEED FOR SPEED Verstappen could walk away from Red Bull if their new car is not competitive this season

SPORT IN BRIEF

The Adobe Women's FA Cup Fourth Round
WEST BROM (0)..... 0 EVERTON (2)..... 5
Momiki 9, 34
Vignola 50, Payne 53
Hobson 55 (pen)

BUNDESLIGA: Augsburg 1 U Berlin 1.
SERIE A: Como 1 AC Milan 3, Verona 2 Bologna 3.

DARTS
BAHRAIN MASTERS (Sakhir)—**1st Rnd:** G Price (Wal) bt M Sakai (Jpn) 6-4, G van Veen (Ned) bt M Leung (Hkg) 6-2, D Noppert (Ned) bt B Mahmood (Bhr) 6-1, N Aspinall (Eng) bt L Ilagan (Phl) 6-4, L Humphries (Eng) bt A Saeed (Bhr) 6-0, L Littler (Eng) bt P Lim (Sgp) 6-1, M van Gerwen (Ned) bt A Toylo (Phl) 6-4, S Bunting (Eng) bt R Azemoto (Jpn) 6-2.

GOLF
THE DP WORLD TOUR DUBAI INVITATIONAL (UAE)—**1st Rnd** (Gbr & Irl unless staed, Par 71): **66** R McIlroy, **67** C Syme, D Puig (Spa), **68** J Guerrier (Fra), M Wallace, A Rozner (Fra), A Ayora (Spa), O Lindell (Fin), **69** P Reed (USA), T Fleetwood, T Lawrence (Rsa), E Lopez-Chacarra (Spa), I Elvira (Spa), P Larrazabal (Spa), J Schaper (Rsa), S Lowry, D Hillier (Nzl), M Armitage, **70** J Kruyswijk (Rsa), D Bradbury, Y Katsuragawa (Jpn), D Frittelli (Rsa), C Hill, R Johnston (USA), D Willett.

SNOOKER
JOHNSTONE'S PAINT MASTERS (Alexandra Palace)—**Qtr-Final:** J Higgins (Sco) bt X Zhao (Chn) 6-5.

TENNIS
AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUALIFYING (Melbourne)—**Final Rnd, Men:** N Basavareddy (USA) bt G Loffhagen (Gbr) 5-7 6-4 6-4; A Fery (Gbr) bt D Prizmic (Cro) 6-4 6-1.
WTA HOBART INTERNATIONAL (Australia)—**Quarter-Finals:** E Cocciaretto (Ita) bt A Bondar (Hun) 6-2 6-2; T Preston (Aus) bt E Raducanu (Gbr) 6-2 6-4; A Ruzic (Cro) bt O Danilovic (Ser) 6-3 6-3; I Jovic (USA) bt M Linette (Pol) 6-3 6-7 (5-7) 6-2.
ATP & WTA ADELAIDE INT'NAL (Australia)—**Quarter-Finals, Men:** T Machac (Cze) bt J Munar (Spa) 6-4 6-4; T Paul (USA) bt A Vukic (Aus) 6-3 6-2; U Humbert (Fra) bt A Shevchenko (Kaz) 6-0 6-3; A Davidovich Fokina (Spa) bt V Vacherot (Mco) 7-6 (7-4) 6-2.
Women: K Birrell (Aus) bt J Cristian (Rom) 5-7 6-1 7-5; V Mboko (Can) bt M Keys (USA) 6-4 4-6 6-2; D Shnaider (Rus) bt E Navarro (USA) 6-3 6-3; M Andreeva (Rus) bt M Joint (Aus) 6-2 6-0.

TODAY'S DIARY
(7.45pm unless stated)

Sky Bet Championship
West Brom v Middlesbrough (8pm)..... (Live on Sky Sports Football)
Scottish Cup Fourth Round
Rangers v Annan Athletic..... (Live on Premier Sports)
The Adobe Women's FA Cup Fourth Round: Newcastle v West Ham (7.30) (Live on TNT Sports 1).
Sports Direct Premiership: Linfield v Larne (Live on BBC Northern Ireland).

BASKETBALL
SLB: Newcastle Eagles v Bristol Flyers (7.30), Surrey 89ers v Sheffield Sharks (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY
Elite League: Belfast Giants v Sheffield Steelers (7pm), Manchester Storm v Glasgow Clan (7.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE
Betfred Championship: Salford RLFC v Oldham (8pm).

RUGBY UNION
Investec Champions Cup Pool 2: Bath v Edinburgh (8pm).
Pool 4: Pau v Blue Bulls (8pm).
European Challenge Cup Pool 2: Dragons v Newcastle (8pm).
National League 1: Leeds Tykes v Sale FC (7.45).

FINN'S ON A MISSION

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

RUGBY UNION

FINN RUSSELL has unfinished business with the Champions Cup and could take a huge step towards completing it this evening.

Russell's Bath take on Edinburgh at the Rec knowing victory guarantees them a home 16 tie and quarter-final, plus a semi in England if they keep on winning.

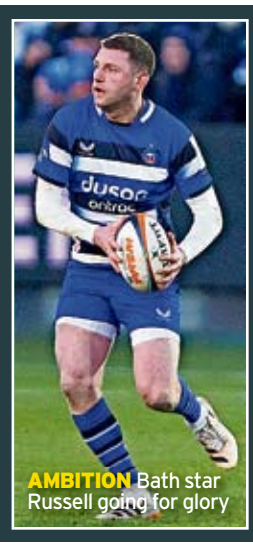
Fly-half Russell lost the 2020 final to Exeter, 31-27, when he was at Racing 92 and lost two semi-finals before his move to Bath, but has not come close since.

The Scot, 33, said: "After getting so close in that game, I probably should have won it with Racing, I'd love to win it. But I've not won it.

"Ideally, we can get the home play-offs, and then we can go on from there. But if we're going to go and really compete in this tournament, we have to be better than we have been this year already."

Bath are boosted by the return of centre Ollie Lawrence and flanker Sam Underhill. Edinburgh miss wing Duhan van der Merwe (calf), and hand a club debut to Malelili Satala. But Darcy Graham starts on the other flank.

■ Bath v Edinburgh, 8pm, Premier Sports



AMBITION Bath star Russell going for glory

Lucky Higgins relives glory baize

BY **SHANE MacDERMOTT**

SNOOKER: MASTERS

BATTLING John Higgins was left counting his lucky stars after reaching a first Masters semi-final for five years.

The evergreen two-time winner fought back from 5-3 down to stun world champion Zhao Xintong 6-5 on the final black in front of a packed Ally Pally crowd.

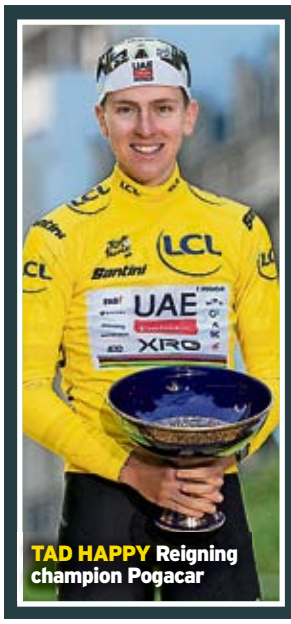
It is the 20-year anniversary since Higgins, 50, produced a clearance for the ages to beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 10-9 on the black to lift the trophy.

And world No.5 Higgins said: "It's just sheer relief after that. Maybe it was fated.

"I was so lucky. From 5-3 down to 5-5 it was criminal the luck that I got. I remembered playing Ronnie and the final black so I stayed down on it a bit longer to make sure I didn't miss it."

Zhao hit breaks of 89, 74 and 53, but Higgins held his nerve to prevail with runs of 114, 64 and 58.

"He had some luck to come back, but I got a chance in the final frame and missed so no complaints," said Zhao.


TAD HAPPY Reigning champion Pogacar

RACE WIN FOR WALES

WALES will host a stage of the Tour de France for the first time in 2027.

Organisers yesterday confirmed that the third stage of the men's race will culminate in Cardiff on July 4, after it was revealed in March that the Grand Depart will take place from Edinburgh two days prior.

In what is set to be the largest free sporting event in British history, the route will begin with a 184km ride from Edinburgh to Carlisle, followed by 223km trips from Keswick in the heart of the Lake District to Liverpool, and then from Welshpool to Cardiff.

BY **DARREN WELLS**

The women's Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift is also due to begin in the UK, starting from Leeds to Manchester on July 30.

Stage two will then head from Manchester to Sheffield with stage three due to be held in London.

Tour director Christian Prudhomme said: "The UK has always welcomed the Tour with passion and pride, and the route details we are revealing reflect the beauty and diversity of Britain's terrain.

"Bringing both Grand Departs here is a testament to the strength of our partnership with British Cycling and the enthusiasm of the UK."

Crowds totalling 2.5 million lined the route when two stages of the Tour were held in Yorkshire in 2014, with organisers expecting a similar turnout next year.

OZ-SOME EXPERIENCE Fery is ready for Australian Open debut

Arthur proves he is top draw after bruising run

BRITISH No.7 Arthur Fery will make his Australian Open debut after coming through qualifying while struggling with the same injury that has forced Jack Draper out of the tournament.

BY **YASMIN SYED IN MELBOURNE**

Draper, who is suffering from bone bruising in his arm, has not played a match since August and withdrew from the first Grand Slam event of the year.

It left Cameron Norrie and Jacob Fearnley as the only British men in the main draw – but 23-year-old Fery will join them after winning six sets in a row in qualifying.

The world No.185 beat Australians Edward Winter and controversial former world No.17 Bernard Tomic before taking out No.14 seed Dino Prizmic 6-4 6-1.

He said: "I was coming here with not many matches and playing my first real tournament of the year, so really happy to have qualified, and I thought I played very well today.

"I knew I had it in me to play really good tennis. It's just a matter of staying healthy and also delivering on the match court."

Staying healthy is key for Fery, who has been suffering from the same arm problem as British No.1 Draper.

The qualifier, who is based in Wimbledon, added: "We've been battling with the same injury right now, so we're trying to figure out ways, what works with him, see if it works for me, and vice versa.

"Obviously, he hasn't fully recovered from it yet. I'm playing, but I haven't fully recovered from it yet as well.

"It's been ever since I came out of college pretty much, but we're working towards fixing it, and I'm back on court now, so it's definitely going the right way."

Fery faces a tall order in No.20 seed Flavio Cobolli in the main draw – but he's no stranger to causing an upset at a Grand Slam tournament.

In what might be a good omen, he took out 20th seed Alexei Popyrin at Wimbledon last summer as a wildcard, and believes his experiences at SW19 will help.

The British men in Melbourne will be led by Norrie, the No.26 seed, who opens his campaign against Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi.

No.3 seed and 2025 runner-up Alexander Zverev is a likely third-round opponent.

Fearnley, who reached the third round here on his debut last year, faces Polish world No.58 Kamil Majchrzak in round one, and 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev looms in his section.

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz will start his quest for a maiden Australian Open title against Aussie ace Adam Walton, and could face fiery Frenchman Corentin Moutet in round three.

And two-time defending champion Jannik Sinner will launch his campaign for a third straight Australian Open title against Hugo Gaston of France – and looks set for a mouthwatering clash with teenage sensation Joao Fonseca in round three.

Sinner is in the same half of the draw as Novak Djokovic, who sparked concern when he pulled out of the Adelaide International and said he was "not quite physically ready to compete".

OPEN QUESTIONS: MAIN

Nine in a row for Sincaraz?

The big question is whether anyone can put an end to the dominance of Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. The pair will be bidding to contest a fourth-straight Grand Slam final having shared the last eight titles between them and making a case for anyone else is difficult.

The Ferrero effect

When Alcaraz comfortably beat Sinner in the US Open final to reclaim the world No.1 ranking and make it seven wins from eight meetings with his big rival, it seemed he had taken a decisive advantage. But Sinner was once again dominant on indoor hard courts, including beating Alcaraz in the ATP Finals decider. Then last month came the shock news that the Spaniard had split from Juan Carlos Ferrero. It is the first big wrinkle in Alcaraz's rise and all eyes will be on how he deals with the change.

Raducanu ready?

A lingering foot problem has once again seen Emma Raducanu's preparations

EMMA'S SEED OF DOUBT

World No1 lies in wait for Briton

MAJOR CHANCE
Raducanu hopes to go deep into the tournament

EMMA RADUCANU is seeded at a Grand Slam for the first time in more than three years – but that has not stopped her from landing a nightmare draw at the Australian Open.

BY **YASMIN SYED IN MELBOURNE**

It's been a tough start to 2026 for the British No.1 and, to add insult to injury, Raducanu looks set to face two-time former champion Aryna Sabalenka in Melbourne.

As the 28th seed, Raducanu does not have to face any other top players until round three. But the Brit has arguably the toughest task if she gets there, as she is projected to face the world No.1.

The top seed has a 3-0 unbeaten record against Raducanu, including a third-round win at Wimbledon last year. Raducanu looked primed to have a good year after extending her partnership with Spanish coach Francisco Roig but things haven't gone to plan.

A lingering foot issue has caused concern, and rain wreaked havoc during her time in Hobart, where Raducanu suffered a shock loss in the quarter-finals yesterday.

She beat Camila Osorio in a match that spanned two days, after play was suspended due to rain during the second set, and got a walkover into the quarters when her opponent withdrew. There, she was stunned by world No.204 Taylah Preston.

The Aussie wildcard had won only one match on the WTA Tour before this week – now she's into the semi-finals after beating an out-of-sorts Raducanu 6-2 6-4.

Brit Raducanu will now turn her attention to the Australian Open, where she faces world No.195 Manan-chaya Sawangkaew in the first round.

Thai ace Sawangkaew made her top-100 debut last year, but got injured, and has entered the tourna-ment using a protected ranking.

Raducanu, 23, will then take on Suzan Lamens or Anastasia Potapova in the second round – with Sabalenka looming.

Katie Boulter has also been handed a brutal draw after getting a last-minute lifeline into the tournament.

Ranked down at No.113, after struggling with injuries and a loss of form last year, Boulter was expected to go through qualifying, but got into the main draw following three withdrawals. However, the draw hasn't been kind to Boulter, who faces an in-form Belinda Bencic.

The world No.10 helped Switzerland reach the United Cup finals this month, and was named the tournament MVP.

A former world No.4 and Olympic gold medallist, Bencic welcomed her first child in April 2024, then made a comeback just over a year ago. And she returned to the top 10 this week.

Sonay Kartal will also face a top player in her opening match, coming up against No.31 seed Anna Kalinskaya. Six-time Major winner Iga Swiatek is a potential third-round opponent for the British No.2.

And Francesca Jones – now at a career-high ranking of No.69 – will hope to carry her momentum into the Aussie Open. She faces Polish qualifier Linda Klimovicova.

TALKING POINTS AT MELBOURNE MAJOR

for a new year disrupted. The 23-year-old has achieved her goal of being seeded at a Slam again but her physical resilience remains the big question mark and expectations must be tempered.

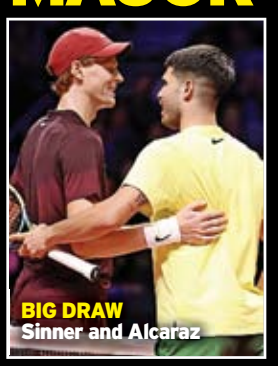
Sabalenka seeks Australian hat-trick

Aryna Sabalenka has a healthy lead in the women's rankings but she has a host of credible contenders queuing up behind her. Sabalenka was surprisingly beaten by Madison Keys in the final last year but buried some demons by winning the US Open and will be the favourite to claim a third title in Melbourne. Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Amanda Anisimova and Elena Rybakina make up the top five and will all have high hopes.

Money talks

Prize money is significantly up, with the overall package now worth about £55million – a 16 percent increase on 2025. But that will not appease disgruntled players, whose frustration at not making progress over their claims to a greater slice of the pie is growing.

Grumbles about the demands of the schedule began again in the opening week of the season and late finishes and gruelling conditions are almost guaranteed in Melbourne. The bomb may not explode here, but the fuse is shortening.



BIG DRAW
Sinner and Alcaraz

WORLD OF SPORT

Rory's set for more glory after sweet 66

GOLF

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

RORY McILROY said he still enjoys striving to get better after using new irons to take the first-round lead at the Dubai Invitational.

The Ulsterman enjoyed a historic 2025 as he completed his career Grand Slam at the Masters and won his seventh Race to Dubai title.

McILROY

But for his first event of the year, the world No.2 played with cavity-backed irons – instead of blades – and the new TaylorMade ball for 2026. He nearly eagled his opening hole and birdied four of his opening five at Dubai Creek on his way to a 66 and a one-shot lead.

"If there's help to be had, I'll definitely take it," McIlroy said. "I've been thinking about it for a while.

"I asked the guys at TaylorMade to build me up a set. And I actually went down to Australia with them and I felt like those irons were going through the turf better than the blades."

THE BIG PICTURE

BUNKER BUSTER: Taylor Dickson at the Bahamas Golf Classic

Derby having a Bash

CRICKET

BY **DAVID CHARLESWORTH**

SHOAIB BASHIR has joined Derbyshire on a two-year deal after his contract expired at Somerset.

Bashir was England's only frontline spinner in their Ashes touring party but was unused.

The 22-year-old off-spinner, who played age-group cricket for Surrey before signing professional terms with Somerset in 2022, has now elected for a fresh start. He links up with former South Africa, Australia and Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur at the County Championship Division Two outfit.

"Derbyshire have a really exciting project going on and working with Mickey Arthur, one of the best coaches in the world, is a great opportunity for any young player," said Bashir.

"I'm keen to play more red-ball cricket, continue my development in the white-ball formats and challenge for promotion."

10 to tackle

1. Which British boxer will fight Christian M'billi for the vacant WBC Super Middleweight title after Terence Crawford was stripped of the belt?
2. **In which position did Lando Norris finish on his F1 debut in the 2019 Australian Grand Prix?**
3. Which Super League club have signed Cook Islands centre Esan Marsters for 2026?
4. **Which Scottish Premiership football team are nicknamed The Staggies?**
5. Which Italian cyclist won the Tour de France in 1949 and 1952?
6. **Who is the only man to win three Olympic javelin gold medals?**
7. Which Swede won the men's singles at the French Open in 1982, 1985 and 1988?
8. **Which snooker ball occupies a spot in the centre of the table?**
9. Which French jockey rode the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winners Helissio, Peintre Celebre, Sagamix and Solemia?
10. **What name is given to golf clubs with a loft of more than 45 degrees?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Hamzah Sheerar 2 Twelfth 3 Bradford Bulls 4 Ross County 5 Fausto Coppi 6 Jan Zelezny 7 Mats Wilander 8 Blue 9 Olivier Peslier 10 Wedges

With OLIVIA BUZAGLO and JOLEON LESCOTT

GAB SHOULD HAVE GOT FINE FOR CONOR PUSH

BY **BEN CRAWFORD**

NON-LEAGUE manager Marc White says Mikel Arteta should have slapped Gabriel Martinelli with a fine for his behaviour towards Conor Bradley.

In the dying moments of Arsenal's 0-0 draw with Liverpool last week, Bradley cleared the ball out of play but injured his knee in the process.

Martinelli was frustrated after Bradley landed on the pitch and attempted to push him off (right), having also thrown the ball at him.

Bradley was carried off on a stretcher and has undergone surgery for a season-ending knee injury. Martinelli avoided further punishment than the yellow card he was shown during the game. Dorking Wanderers manager White (inset) reckons Gunners boss Arteta should have fined the Brazilian and he would have punished him if he was in charge at the Emirates. "If I were the manager I would have fined Martinelli," said White, speaking on In The Mixer brought to you by Sky Bet.

"He should have just said he was going to fine him a certain amount of money. He's the manager, right? You can't do that stuff. You can't do what Martinelli did. It was really bad.

"He represents your team and your club and so he should have said he was going to fine him."

Former Manchester City and Everton defender Joleon Lescott agreed with White.

Lescott said: "I thought it was all insane that he was even trying to do those things like chucking the ball at him. Regardless of the injury you just don't do it."

WATCH IN THE MIXER NOW

Bad Marcs for car park meeting

DORKING WANDERERS boss Marc White claims he was hit with a 12-game stadium ban after confronting officials in a car park.

White, who founded the club with friends in 1999 and has guided them to 12 promotions, is no stranger to a ban.

A hungover interaction with officials supposedly landed him in very hot water.

"I once had a 12-game stadium ban," said White. "I got sent off at York City but I was hungover. I was in a bad mood.

"I had processed it, then my mates were going back out that night and they'd booked a taxi outside the club.

"As I was getting in I saw all four officials walking out the ground and thought, 'Right'.

"The ban was for meeting them in the car park."

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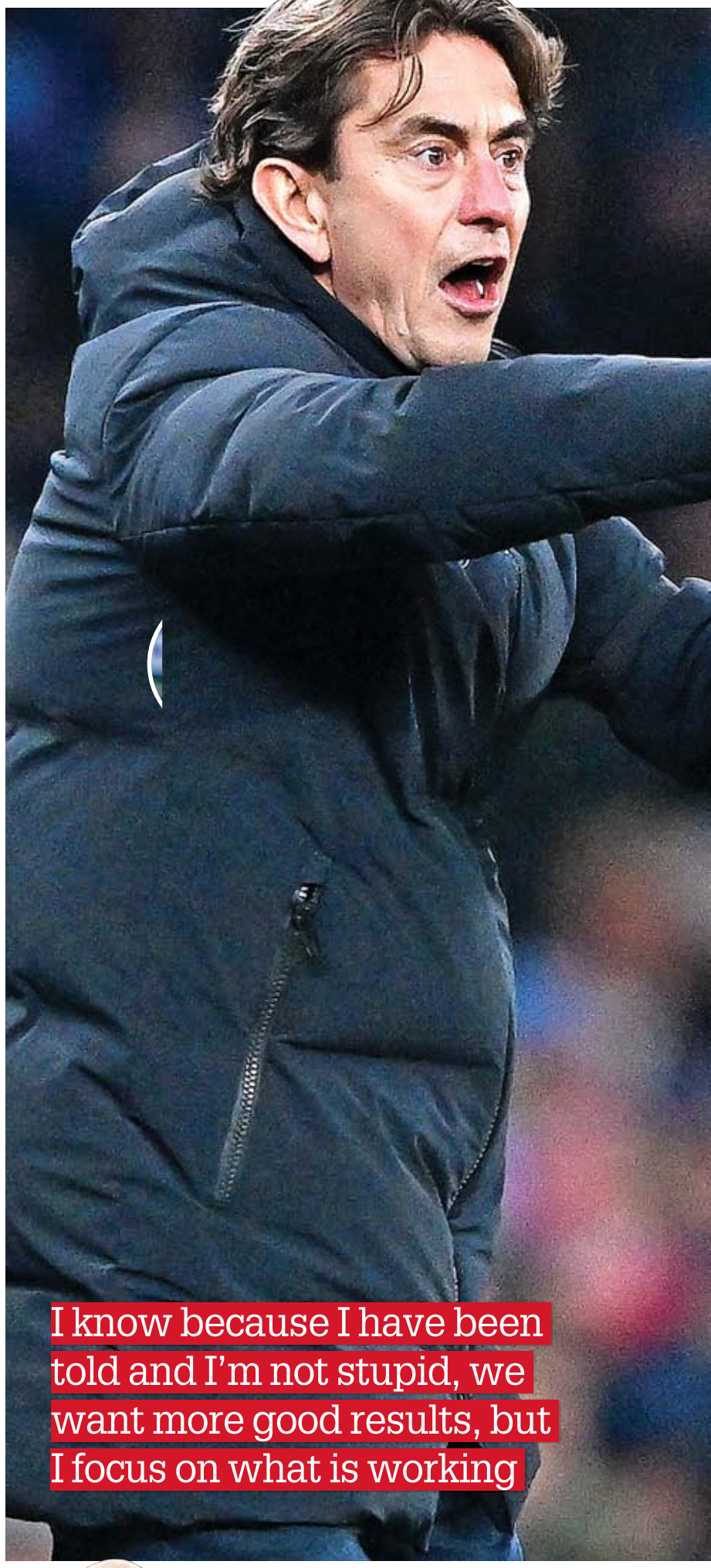


CLINGING ON Nuno has work cut out to keep star

Nuno: We have to take

BY **NEIL MCLEMAN**

NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO admitted he is "deeply concerned" about Lucas Paqueta and said West Ham have to "take care" of the Brazil star.

But the Hammers boss said Paqueta "needs" to play for the club again to save them from the drop. "Lucas is one of the best players," Nuno said. "Our best players must be available and helpful."

The £51million playmaker missed the FA Cup win over QPR on Sunday amid interest from his former club Flamengo.

Nuno said Paqueta is "still having treatment" on a back condition and is not certain to play in tomorrow's London derby at

HOCUS FOCUS Manager Thomas Frank believes he can transform struggling Spurs and turn them into a real force

SURVIVE THIS AND WE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE

Under-fire Frank wants time for new-look Spurs to gel

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

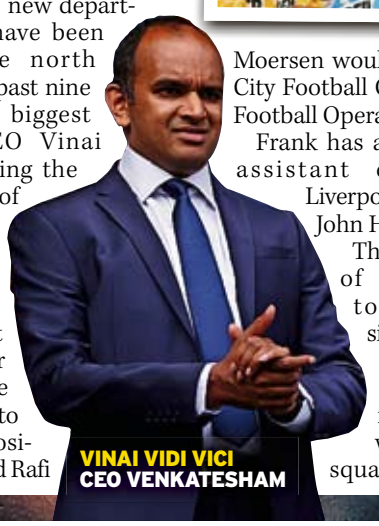
THOMAS Frank claims Tottenham can become an "unstoppable force" if they can get through their period of turmoil on and off the pitch.

But when it comes to the pressure, the Spurs manager said: "I only focus on what I can affect. There is a lot of noise. I know because I've been told and I'm not stupid, we want more good results but I focus on what I can see is actually working and we have to do more of that.

"I know we need to focus on being calm and doing the right thing. If we do that, keep doing the right thing, hopefully because we do more right things – then things will turn."

COOKING UP A PLAN Frank with new signing Conor Gallagher

Frank is one of 12 new department heads who have been appointed at the north London club in the past nine months, with the biggest change being CEO Vinai Venkatesham steering the ship in the wake of Daniel Levy's ousting after 24 years at the helm.


VINAI VIDI VICI CEO VENKATESHAM

Tottenham confirmed this week that sporting director Fabio Paratici will be leaving next month to take on a similar position at Fiorentina and Rafi Moersen would be joining from the City Football Group in a Director of Football Operations role.

Frank has also appointed a new assistant coach in former Liverpool coach and Ajax boss John Heitinga.

The result has been a lot of new faces trying to find their feet simultaneously.

And Frank, who is struggling in 14th place in the Premier League with an injury-hit squad, believes that with time, Spurs can become something special. He said: "I know the one thing you don't have in football is time, but the one thing that has also been proven to bring success is time.

"So it's a little bit of a conundrum. You need time, not only me, but everyone to gel and make this big engine tick and get up to momentum and pace. Then it's like an unstoppable force. That's the big aim.

"There's a few new people and all of us need to get to know each other, how we work and to get the right process and structure in place is important. But alongside that, we need to perform to our best ability in the most positive way and that needs to start on Saturday against West Ham."

Frank will have a new face available for that game in Conor Gallagher after his £34.7million signing from Atletico Madrid and the Tottenham boss wants another attacker added to the ranks.

Richarlison is set to miss seven weeks with a hamstring problem, Mohammed Kudus is out until April with a quad injury and Dejan Kulusevski is still not back from his knee surgery.

Frank said: "We are in the market to see if we can improve the squad, but it needs to be something where we improve the squad, short and long term.

"It can't only be for the next four months. We need to think bigger picture, but of course, we know that we are a few offensive players down in that aspect."

The former Brentford boss is delighted with the arrival of Gallagher though to bolster his midfield options after losing Rodrigo Bentancur for three months to a hamstring injury.

"It's a top signing, a very good player, great experience in the Premier League, also in La Liga, captain of two teams," said Frank.

"That character, leadership, experience, and still young, 25, with plenty of development to reach, but coming in on a good level, bringing his pressing abilities, directness, scoring goals, but also able to find good positions on the pitch, is exactly what we need."

care of Paqueta... we need him for battle against drop

Tottenham. "He's still struggling," warned the Portuguese coach. "Let's see. We have a couple of days to go."

Paqueta saw an £80m transfer to Manchester City collapse in August 2023 after he was accused – and later cleared – of spot-fixing by the Football Association.

After he was sent off for dissent against Liverpool in November, the Brazilian claimed his behaviour towards referee Darren England was "a reflection of everything I've had to endure". Asked if he is concerned about Paqueta after one-to-one talks this week, Irons boss Nuno said: "Of course I am. Deeply. Like I am with all our players.

"We must, and I think we have, protect our own. First and foremost. This is what we are trying to do – protect our own and try to find the best way.

"The most important thing for the club is clear. Our best players must be available and helpful. There's no doubt about the talent and the quality of Lucas. That's not in discussion here. It's just to get the best out of him.

"Is he in the right mindset to play for West Ham? He needs to be. You have to understand that many things happened with Lucas. Many things in the past. This problem that he had.

"The club have supported him through all these hard moments. First of all, he's a person. We have to take care of that now. And we are doing it. Let's wait and see."

The Brazilian transfer market is open until March – and Paqueta looks certain to leave the London Stadium in the summer with one year left on his contract. If not before.

But asked if 28-year-old Paqueta had told him he wants to stay, the Irons boss added: "He's here in the building, he's having his lunch now and did his treatment.

"It's clear, isn't it?"

EXIT Paqueta looks set to depart Hammers

SOUTHGATE: Struggle

The social skills key to success

FROM BACK PAGE

England are to be successful. Tuchel said: "When I speak to players who have been in World Cups, it has always made the difference when the connection was right, when the communication was right, between the players first of all.

"So, when the players had the feeling that the right group is in camp, that they knew their role, why they are in camp, what is expected of them, and they had the feeling that the tournament could even go on for another four weeks and they would be happy to be together, then they were successful.

"When they had the feeling after the round of 16 already 'oh, when can we finally go home?' and the energy was not right and they didn't make it.

"It will be very important that we don't select just for talent, but also for what we need from a player.

"What the social skills are of a player, is he a good team-mate? Can he support if his role is maybe the supporting role? So, this is where the focus is."

Tuchel was talking in an interview filmed last month but released yesterday and his comments will strike a chord after England's last campaign at the Euros.

Former England boss Gareth Southgate admitted that his squad for Germany was difficult to manage with so many new faces.

But Tuchel says he will face even bigger challenges this summer.

"It is a big tournament regarding distances, the time zones that you travel, the altitude – difference of altitude, difference of weather conditions. It will be very hot," he said.

"Then we will be hopefully six to eight weeks together if we make it until the very end. It will demand a lot of our social skills.

"We need to find the right balance and take it as an opportunity and take it as a dream coming true to be part of a World Cup and to play, hopefully, a major role."

RED DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS FOR HOLLAND

United's new coach is tough, demanding, meticulous and doesn't suffer fools gladly... cross him at your peril

MAKING A CASE Carrick giving his instructions to Casemiro during a training session

TRAIN AND THEN REIGN Holland fully involved in training at United and (circle) England duty with Gareth Southgate

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

STEVE HOLLAND is not a coach to be messed with.

Having worked with some of the biggest stars in the game, he takes no prisoners when it comes to reputations and egos.

And his attention to detail has become the stuff of legend.

Just ask Arsenal defender Ben White.

During the World Cup in Qatar in 2022, White was part of the England squad preparing for a group-stage game against the USA.

Former Three Lions assistant manager Holland was less than impressed with White's attitude, when he decided the full-back didn't share the same obsession with football he had – or expected.

He will have hit the ground running and leave nothing to chance... his mantra is all about winning

One barbed comment towards the Gunners star, which is understood to have been made in front of team-mates, left White (below) so upset he asked to go home.

Which he did, with Gareth Southgate's blessing.

The 28-year-old has never pulled on an England shirt again.

Southgate wanted him to, but White refused the invitation.

It must be assumed the defender had no desire to work under Holland again, given what happened at England's training base at Souk Al-Wakr, on the outskirts of Doha.

Yet the fall-out between White and Holland is a cautionary tale for the Manchester United squad, now Holland has been appointed No.2 to interim manager Michael Carrick.

United need some structure and identity and certain individuals a kick up the backside

The Red Devils have broken with tradition and made a shrewd appointment.

Let's be honest, the current United team needs an experienced hand to guide it out of this carnage, not to mention give certain individuals a kick up the backside.

United need some structure and identity.

Holland has 33 years coaching experience. He began at the age of 22 when his playing career got cut short, got his Pro License at the age of 27 and spent 17 years at Crewe, before moving on to Chelsea, working under some of the biggest managers in the game.

He joined England in 2017 and has earned a reputation for being hard to please.

He can come across as being stern and sometimes sullen.

As one football insider put it following his arrival at United, "expect him to smile about once a month".

But United haven't hired someone to crack jokes.

This is not a personality contest. It is about meeting the challenge of rescuing United's season head on.

Because the team itself is the only joke doing the rounds in the red half of Manchester.

Holland is demanding, but his training sessions are game focused. He expects players to transfer details and drills into matches.

While Carrick is well versed in the so-called United DNA, having had a stellar playing career with the English giants, Holland will bring an independent eye and ideas to proceedings.

Holland is tough and will suffer no fools. He will be someone Carrick will lean on a lot, just like Southgate did during their time together with England.

Southgate has admitted in the past he wouldn't have had the success he did without Holland by his side.

Under their leadership, England reached a World Cup semi-final and two Euros finals.

During his time at Chelsea, Cesc Fabregas once hailed Holland's "meticulous coaching brain".

Holland, who is capable of devising specific plans for individual games and opponents, will be identifying United's strengths and weaknesses, according to the talent at his disposal.

He will have hit the ground running at Old Trafford and leave nothing to chance.

His mantra is that everything is about winning.

And the impact he will have on the United squad cannot come soon enough.

RENEE SLAMS 'CLUELESS'

FROM BACK PAGE

charge have no idea what they're doing. Speaking on the Footy Accumulators No Tippy Tappy Football podcast, in partnership with BOYLE Sports, Meulensteen revealed his anger with United bosses.

And Sir Alex Ferguson's former No.2 called on United to appoint Carlo Ancelotti (left) or Eddie Howe as their next manager.

Meulensteen said: "Since INEOS and Jim Ratcliffe have come in, do they actually know what they're doing?

"You need to look at everybody in those positions, and they have to take responsibility in those important positions. Have they got the pedigree? If you look at Jason Wilcox [director of football] and how he's ended up in that position, it was from being a youth coach, then ended up at Southampton, then you're the technical director and the main man responsible for things at Manchester United.

"Imagine if Carlo Ancelotti came in to take the job, Carlo

Southgate has admitted in the past he wouldn't have had the success he did without Holland by his side

PREMIER TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	21	15	4	2	40	14	49
Man City	21	13	4	4	45	19	43
Aston Villa	21	13	4	4	33	24	43
Liverpool	21	10	5	6	32	28	35
Brentford	21	10	3	8	35	28	33
Newcastle	21	9	5	7	32	27	32
Man Utd	21	8	8	5	36	32	32
Chelsea	21	8	7	6	34	24	31
Fulham	21	9	4	8	30	30	31
Sunderland	21	7	9	5	21	22	30
Brighton	21	7	8	6	31	28	29
Everton	21	8	5	8	23	25	29
Crystal Palace	21	7	7	7	22	23	28
Tottenham	21	7	6	8	30	27	27
Bournemouth	21	6	8	7	34	40	26
Leeds	21	5	7	9	29	37	22
Nottm Forest	21	6	3	12	21	34	21
West Ham	21	3	5	13	22	43	14
Burnley	21	3	4	14	22	41	13
Wolves	21	1	4	16	15	41	7

Sanch not for keeps

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

LIAM ROSENIOR has warned Robert Sanchez and his Chelsea players that they are never guaranteed their place in the team.

Sanchez came under fire on Wednesday evening with two mistakes leading to Arsenal's opening goals in the 3-2 Carabao Cup semi-final defeat.

The Spanish goalkeeper flapped at a corner which allowed Ben White to head in to give the Gunners the lead. In the second half, Sanchez fumbled a low cross from White and that led to a tap-in for Viktor Gyokeres.

Chelsea boss Rosenior said: "If you look at me at every club, there has to be competition. I work on performance, not just in the goalkeeping department, but in every position on the pitch. You have to earn your spot in this team.

"I have a very good squad. So for me, that is the message to all of the players. I do not have guaranteed No.1s or guaranteed No.9s."

Andy eyes perfect 10

FROM BACK PAGE

private. I've spoken to them and we'll see what happens.

"Would I like to stay? Yes, but it's a difficult question to ask. I've got five months left and we need to see the option to stay or if there's options to go and things like that.

"I'll sit down with my family and decide. After a stressful summer, I'm just trying to enjoy being a part of it, and being a Liverpool player.

"I wanted to qualify for the World Cup and thankfully we've managed to do that.

"I need to see what myself and my family wants moving forward."

Now into his ninth season at Anfield, the Kop left-back has started just four Premier League games this season, with 22-year-old Kerkez (above) preferred by Arne Slot.

There was interest from Atletico Madrid during last summer's transfer window, and there will be other clubs in the queue should Robertson and Liverpool part company.

PEP'S PLOTTING GREATEST SEND-OFF

COMMENT BY **JOHN CROSS**

PEP GUARDIOLA is driven by glory, trophies and legacy.

As he prepares for another derby day tomorrow, in my eyes, the Manchester City manager is the greatest of the Premier League era.

His success, his style of football and remarkable haul of silverware is the reason why he deserves to edge out Jose Mourinho, Arsene Wenger and even Sir Alex Ferguson.

Four titles in a row, winning the Champions League, dominance of English football, groundbreaking tactics and incredible style of football. That is Guardiola's legacy. And it is that strive for greatness and to go out in a blaze of glory which makes me think that this might be Guardiola's last season at the Etihad.

It's a theory. It's opinion. But there are a few things that make me think Guardiola is preparing to exit.

If you are going to leave, you want to go out in style. Going out as runners-up is no exit plan. And that is why I think City are hell bent on winning the title this season.

It is also why Guardiola (circled) did the most un-Guardiola thing when he signed Gianluigi Donnarumma from Paris Saint-Germain for £26million. No one can dispute what a good keeper he is but City had already signed James Trafford to be their No.1.

Then came a realisation that Donnarumma (with Guardiola, far left) is in a different class, was available and City just went for it.

The Italian has been outstanding. But he's just not a typical Guardiola keeper.

This window has already seen City pay £64m for Antoine Semenyo and they are very much in the market for Marc Guehi.

They are pushing hard. It may need £40m to land a player who is out of contract in June. But they want him. It is a deal which makes little financial sense but Guehi can shore up their defence and help win City the title.

It would be an achievement which Guardiola could savour and go out with on a high. What a way to go and sign off.

If I was a betting man, I would say Enzo Maresca would be next. He is also a free agent. City like him. He has worked there before. The hierarchy know him and his agent.

He does not have Guardiola's charisma or experience. But he has Guardiola's respect. He is a brilliant coach.

And that is coming from the best the league has ever seen.

UNITED

would take charge of the recruitment, because of his network and knowing what a winning culture looks like.

"If I asked Jason, describe me a winning culture, what are the ingredients? Would he know?"

"I'm a big Ancelotti fan. He would have the stature to come in and run a club like Man United. I also rate Eddie Howe."

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ANDY TO BARTER FOR TEN

New deal would bring up decade at Reds

BY **PAUL GORST**

ANDY ROBERTSON wants to make it a perfect 10 years at Liverpool by signing a new deal.

The Scotland captain has been sharing left-back duties with new signing Milos Kerkez this season. However,

BY **PAUL GORST**

Robertson (left), who signed from Hull in 2017, says he still has the hunger and is already talking to the club about a possible new deal at Anfield. He said: "We've had chats now which will remain

TURN TO PAGE 59, COLUMN 7

BY **JOHN CROSS**

THOMAS TUCHEL has warned players must have the right "social skills" to make his England World Cup squad.

Tuchel only has two more friendlies in March before naming his squad for this summer with England's first game against Croatia in Dallas on June 17.

The England boss spoke last autumn about needing to build a "brotherhood" to give them a team spirit which can help them lift the trophy.

It was a clear warning that players must be good tourists and there must be a good balance in the dressing room if

TURN TO PAGE 57, COLUMN 7

Tuchel says social skills essential for World Cup squad

TALENT IS NOT ENOUGH

BROTHERS IN ARMS
Tuchel wants his players to enjoy spending time together so they can go the distance at the World Cup

RATCLIFFE REDS ARE 'CLUELESS'

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

MANCHESTER United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe and INEOS have been slammed as clueless when it comes to running the club.

Ratcliffe (above) has appointed his third manager since purchasing a stake in the club in 2024, with Michael Carrick taking charge until the summer, when Ratcliffe & Co are expected to make a permanent appointment.

But with United lurching from one crisis to another – and no silverware to play for at the earliest stage of a season since the Second World War – former Old Trafford coach Renee Meulensteen insists those in

TURN TO PAGE 58, COLUMN 3

EMMA GETS TOUGH DRAW IN OZ

TENNIS: SEE PAGES 54-55

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions on Monday**

EASY

2		1		3				9
			1			2		7
5		9			4	8		
		5		6			9	
	9	4	8		7	3		5
	1			5		4		
		7	5		9			3
9	8				1		5	
		3		8	6	9		2

MEDIUM

3			4		5			9
9	5			3				1
		1	9		6	3		
	3						2	
		2		6		5		
	8				3		1	
		3	7		9	6		
4				8				3
5			3		1		9	7

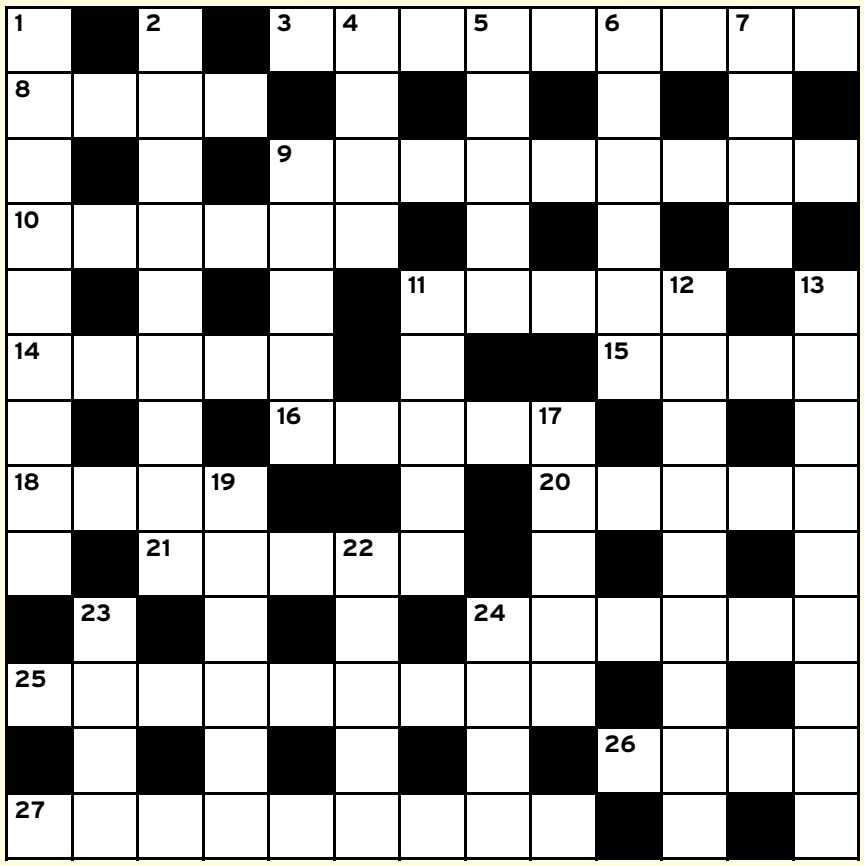
DIFFICULT

	5	4		2		9		
	6						3	
7		1	6					
				5				2
	2		1		3		7	
4				6				
					5	1		9
	8						6	
		9		1		4	8	

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
3 Standard (9)
8 Passion (4)
9 Staunch (9)
10 Shrewd (6)
11 Keen (5)
14 Famous (5)
15 Measure (4)
16 Scrub (5)
18 Emporium (4)
20 Come in (5)
21 Foster (5)
24 Remarkable (6)
25 Fitful (9)
26 Responsibility (4)
27 Burial (9)

DOWN
1 Eminence (9)
2 Tumult (9)
4 Scold (4)
5 Rubbish (5)
6 Amend (6)
7 Eject (4)
9 Nails (5)
11 20 (5)
12 Apposite (9)
13 Callous (9)
17 Memento (5)
19 Chase (6)
22 Tempest (5)
23 Whirl (4)
24 Indication (4)

Solution on Monday

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **18 mins** Good: **14 mins** Excellent: **10 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

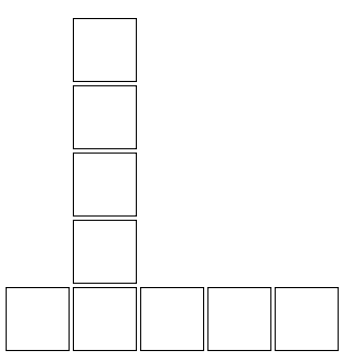
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

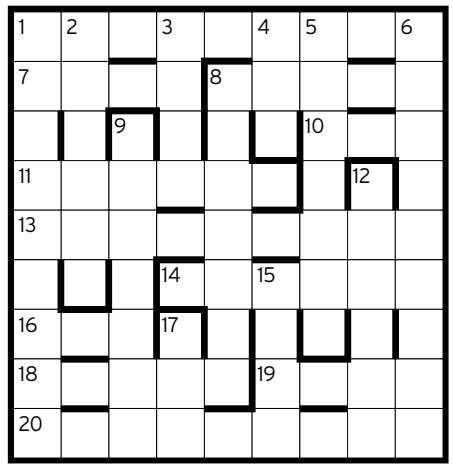
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution on Monday

A E F G H L O R T



SMALL CROSSWORD



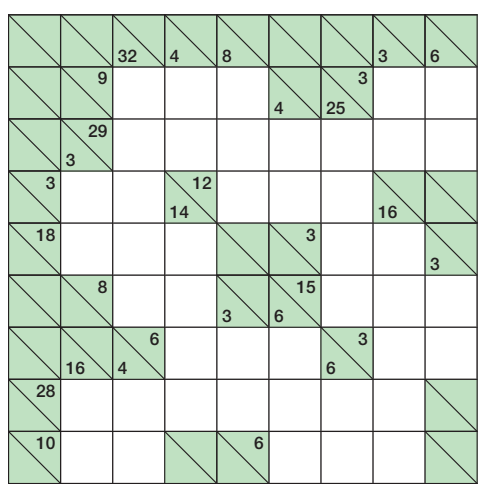
ACROSS
1 Viral disease (9)
7 Flower (4)
8 Chubby (5)
10 Indian state (3)
11 Root vegetables (6)
13 French cheese (9)
14 Casualty (6)
16 Feathery scarf (3)
18 Relating to the moon (5)
19 Similar (4)
20 Radical (9)

DOWN
1 Easily angered (9)
2 Scandinavian country (6)
3 Be ahead (4)
4 Tall deciduous tree (3)
5 Lumps of gold (7)
6 Pan matter (anag.) (9)
8 First in importance (7)
9 Vestige (7)
12 Time of extreme trouble (6)
15 Shelled mollusc (4)
17 Spoil (3)

Solution on Monday

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

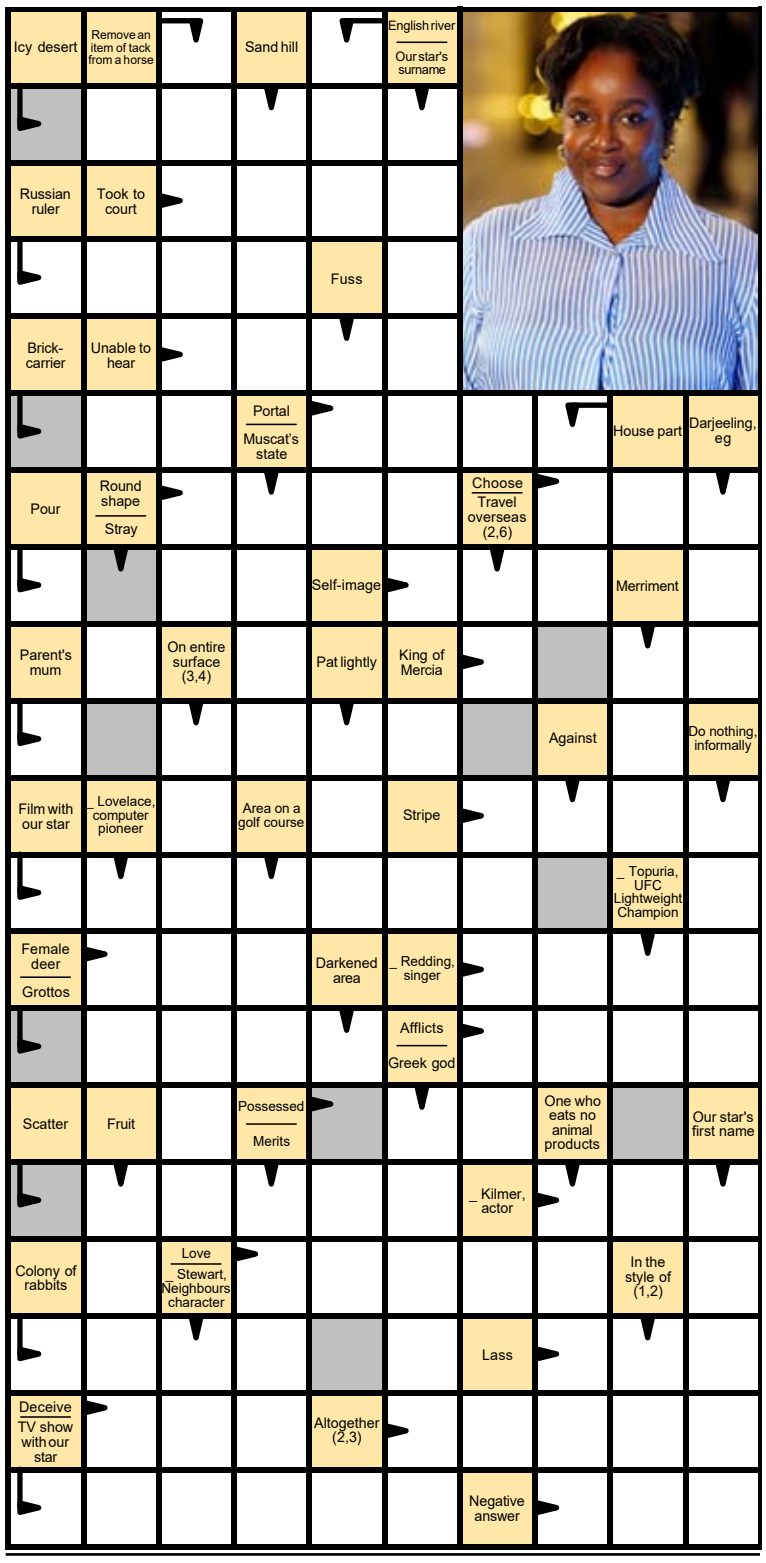
Solution on Monday

Puzzles

ARROW-WORD

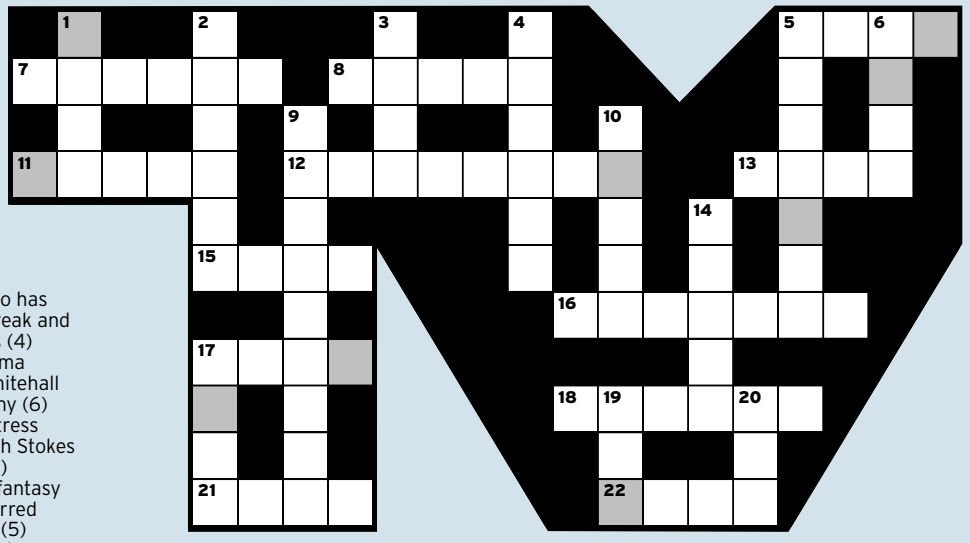
Enter your answers as indicated by the arrows, including items connected with our TV star, then read the letters in the shaded squares to spell the 2025 comedy series for which she received a BAFTA nomination (3,9).

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out



TV CROSSWORD

Solve our crossword, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to reveal the name of a TV show (3,2,4).



ACROSS

5 Dan ___, retired tennis player who has presented Daybreak and Cowboy Builders (4)
7 Prime Video drama starring Jack Whitehall as a psycho nanny (6)
8 Lorraine ___, actress who played Steph Stokes in Emmerdale (5)
11 Sapphire & ___, fantasy drama which starred David McCallum (5)
12 Dune: ___, sci-fi show with Emily Watson and Travis Fimmel (8)
13 __ Britt, Desperate Housewives character played by Nicollette Sheridan (4)
15 ___ Rue, US actress whose TV credits include A Series Of Unfortunate Events (4)
16 Jack ___, Hollyoaks character played by Jimmy McKenna (7)
17 ___ Roy, James Cromwell's character in Succession (4)
18 Kieran ___, star of Succession and Solar Opposites (6)
21 Niecy ___, actress who plays Emerald Greene in All's Fair (4)
22 ___ Reid, actress who plays Nancy Gaskell in Riot Women (4)

DOWN

1 ___ Simpson, the only son of Homer and Marge in The Simpsons (4)
2 Prunella ___, actress who played Sybil Fawlty in Fawlty Towers (6)
3 ___ Paphitis, entrepreneur who was a Dragons' Den dragon (4)
4 ___ Piven, actor who played the title role in Mr Selfridge (6)
5 Texas-based drama with Billy Bob Thornton and Demi Moore (7)
6 The Great British ___ Off, cookery contest with Paul Hollywood (4)
9 US historical drama which starred Andy Whitman and John Hannah (9)
10 Miley ___, actress who played the title role in Hannah Montana (5)
14 Mackenzie ___, actor who played Gareth in The Office (5)
17 ___ Handler, actor who played Harry Goldenblatt in Sex And The City (4)
19 ___ Stubbs, actress who played Rita Rawlins in Till Death Do Us Part (3)
20 Dancing On ___, former ITV celebrity talent show (3)

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1 In Christian tradition, how many deadly sins are there?
2 Which Oscar-winning actress married Coldplay frontman Chris Martin in 2003?
3 Which Emmerdale character has been played by Chris Chittell since 1986?
4 Lead vocalist and guitarist Chrissie Hynde is best known for being a founding member of which band formed in 1978?
5 What is the surname of Chris, the last British Governor of Hong Kong?

6 Saint Christopher is the patron saint of what – painters, travellers or golfers?
7 In which decade, in London, was broadcaster and former athlete Kriss Akabusi born?
8 In which state of the southwestern US is the coastal city of Corpus Christi?
9 Which former footballer played Big Chris in the Guy Ritchie film Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels?
10 In which sport has Chris Woakes represented the England national team?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

TRIVIA WORDSEARCH

1 In which Lincolnshire town was former UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher born in 1925? (8)
2 What is the name of Alice Munro's dark-haired sister in James Fenimore Cooper's classic novel The Last of the Mohicans? (4)
3 What breed of white hunting dog, now extinct, is believed to have preceded the beagle and the bloodhound? (6)
4 Who does Becky Sharp marry in Thackeray's Vanity Fair? (6,7)
5 What is the surname of the Jack Lemmon character, initials C.C., in the 1960 comedy movie The Apartment? (6)
6 Which character did Bernard Hill play in Alan Bleasdale's 1982 TV drama Boys from the Blackstuff? (6,6)
7 Which celebrated US frontiersman and army officer was born in Kentucky in 1809? (3,6)
8 What was the surname of 1920s US criminal Clyde, of Bonnie and Clyde fame? (6)
9 Which ship did John Cabot sail from Bristol to the New World in 1497? (7)
10 What was the final enigmatic word of the eponymous newspaper tycoon played by Orson Welles in the classic 1941 movie Citizen Kane? (7)

Downton Character Names. Solve the clues and find the answers in the grid. **Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out**

Y	R	E	P	S	Y	Y	E	F	R	E	H	V
C	E	S	C	H	O	W	L	Y	E	R	E	D
H	R	L	A	N	S	E	E	S	R	N	N	P
B	H	I	W	O	S	H	N	H	E	Y	O	I
A	O	D	L	A	E	C	M	E	T	O	S	T
T	R	W	E	N	R	A	O	R	X	T	R	T
C	A	O	H	E	H	C	R	C	A	H	A	A
H	S	R	C	T	U	E	N	H	B	L	C	M
E	E	R	N	R	G	C	D	O	B	J	T	O
L	A	A	E	O	H	A	N	O	D	P	I	V
O	R	B	S	N	E	R	T	D	E	W	K	H
G	D	U	B	E	S	O	R	E	P	D	A	E
N	S	E	P	O	D	S	E	Z	N	Y	H	R

DITLOIDS

If we asked you what "7 D of the W" stood for, you would soon guess we meant 7 Days of the Week, but what are the rather more tricky ones below?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

1) 8 D A W by T B
2) 48 C C in E
3) 12 A M
4) 2 S F, 1 S B
5) T W 9 Y
6) 3 S to the W

MUDDLESOME

We've scrambled up the names of comedians. Can you work out what they are?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

HERESY AGAIN

LIGHT BORDER

LONE SACK

WORDS

In the following passage, the numbers 12345 represent different letters:

Alas, my 35443 girlfriend, 1212, didn't 122 much over the 45443 I bought her. "325 can't 1224 it up all day without it wanting to 4224 everywhere," she said, "and it doesn't like the 42443 seeds I feed it. Plus it needs something to 211543 its time. This is like the 12345 saga all over again. You've sold me another 454."

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

CLOCK-WISE

There are six answers to be entered clockwise on the clock face. Each has four letters and each begins with the last two letters of the previous one, until we come full circle with answer six ending with the first two letters of answer one. Here are the clues:

1 Indian music
2 Portal
3 Rip
4 Horse breed
5 Competently
6 Constellation

SUMTHING

Fit the missing numbers into the grid so that all the sums are correct – reading left to right or on single lines top to bottom. There are 11 squares to fill, with one digit in each, and the 11 digits you must use are listed below. But where do they all go?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

	+		=		
−		+		+	
4	×		=		
=		=		=	
	×		=		

We've given you one digit to get you started. Here are the missing digits to fit in:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 5, 6, 9

THE ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE®

12	18	20	24	■	7	14	5	26	24	10	6	■
19	■	1	■	10	■	10	■	10	■	24	■	9
15	16	14	10	24	■	13	10	19	11	3	16	24
15	■	20	■	6	■	1	■	15	■	16	■	10
16	24	22	6	19	10	24	■	■	16	22	11	2
24	■	■	■	16	■	10	■	24	■	13	■	■
6	16	24	19	25	1	■	6	17	19	14	10	24
■	■	5	■	6	■	18	■	19	■	■	■	5
16	24	9	21	■	■	4	16	22	10	25	24	26
19	■	24	■	11	■	4	■	5	■	1	■	16
13	18	16	16	22	26	24	■	18	8	18	5	24
20	■	18	■	6	■	5	■	23	■	6	■	6
■	24	3	22	6	18	26	24	■	11	24	6	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	B	P										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A ~~B~~ C D E F G ~~H~~ I J K L M N O ~~P~~ Q R S T U V W X Y Z

WELCOME to the ULTRA Alphapuzzle™ – the 'extra-tough' version of Britain's favourite wordpower challenge. Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters are used.

TARGET TIME: 30 minutes.

Solution next Friday

Alternatively, for 6 extra clues to your mobile, text:

DXALPHAX to 64343

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

For up to six Extra Clue Letters, call:

0907 181 2578*

(Deduct three minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard)

Full solution: **0907 181 2579***
Across only: **0907 181 2576***
Down only: **0907 181 2577***

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your phone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke. **Helpline 0333 202 3390**

Last Friday's solution
Across: Kite, Rejoice, Train, Organic, Halting, Worm, Piglet, Metric, Home, Plumber, Dialect, Slave, Storeys, Next.
Down: Ketchup, Hide, Trawl, Gymnast, Infidel, Rear, Enough, Apathy, Orgy, Bequest, Contour, Blaze, Scum, Correct.

Alphapuzzle® © 2024 Acorn Editorial Ltd

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

SAMURAI SUDOKU

1	5	8	3	4	9	7	6	2
3	6	9	7	1	2	5	4	8
7	2	4	6	8	5	3	9	1
2	7	1	4	9	3	6	8	5
4	3	6	5	2	8	9	1	7
9	8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4
5	9	2	8	3	4	1	7	6
8	1	3	2	7	6	4	5	9
6	4	7	9	5	1	8	2	3

			7	4	1	5	9	6
			8	2	5	3	1	4
			9	6	3	7	2	8
			5	7	6	1	4	9
			3	9	4	8	5	2
			2	1	8	6	7	3
4	8	9	2	3	5	1	7	6
1	3	2	4	6	7	8	5	9
6	5	7	9	8	1	4	2	3

			9	8	1	5	4	7
			6	4	5	3	2	9
			2	3	7	1	8	6
1	9	5	8	2	3	7	6	4
4	2	6	5	7	1	3	9	8
8	7	3	6	4	9	5	1	2
9	4	7	3	1	8	6	2	5
2	5	1	7	6	4	9	8	3
6	3	8	9	5	2	1	4	7
7	1	2	4	9	5	8	3	6
3	6	9	2	8	7	4	5	1
5	8	4	1	3	6	2	7	9

7	6	4	8	1	2	5	9	3
4	2	7	1	5	8	6	3	9
2	7	1	5	8	6	4	1	3
3	8	6	4	1	9	3	7	5
4	8	6	9	5	1	2	7	3
3	2	9	6	7	4	5	1	8
7	1	5	8	3	2	6	4	9
6	5	8	2	4	9	1	3	7
9	3	2	7	1	5	4	8	6
1	4	7	3	6	8	9	2	5

WORDSEARCH

E	Y	A	C	X	W	V	Z	K	K	E	Q	L	J	I
K	X	R	N	S	I	U	X	C	B	U	M	L	F	L
X	K	R	A	L	H	X	R	F	U	A	L	I	K	I
S	A	U	L	R	Q	E	U	D	N	W	C	M	D	K
B	C	A	E	G	B	G	D	S	G	H	Z	S	A	S
M	C	H	A	S	I	I	I	F	A	C	T	O	R	Y
A	D	I	O	F	U	O	L	L	L	O	P	Y	B	N
I	I	H	N	O	N	O	E	N	O	G	T	X	E	O
S	J	Y	O	E	L	T	H	F	W	C	E	T	U	S
O	M	X	P	S	M	C	Z	T	A	A	O	X	Q	I
N	B	V	A	X	D	A	M	S	H	W	A	G	S	R
E	C	E	L	Q	A	A	T	F	E	G	U	L	O	P
T	M	P	A	R	O	L	E	R	J	A	I	E	M	K
T	M	E	C	G	E	N	J	S	B	F	G	L	P	F
E	X	M	E	C	I	W	P	D	Y	Z	O	H	S	U

ARROW-WORD

		M		L		J			B		O			
M	A	Y	B	E		U	P	K	E	E	P			
	B	R	A	V	A	D	O		G	A	T			
H	A	I	R	Y		A	T	H	O	M	E			
	T	A	B		V	I	A		N	O	D			
	E	D	E	N		S	T	A	I	N				
	S		C	O	R	M	O	R	A	N	T		F		K
H		E	U	R	O			M			O	N	I	C	E
O		D	E	F	O	R	E	S	T	E	D		R	A	N
P	H	I		O	M	A	N		A	C	A	D	E	M	Y
	E	T	A	L		B	R	O	L	L	Y		S	P	A
P	L	O	N	K			O	R	C	A		S		B	
	P	R	Y		G	E	L	S		I	R	O	N	E	D
			N	O	V		O		R	O	Y	A	L	E	
			D	I	G				M	A	U	L	S		
				C	R	A	D	L	E		G				
N	A	T	A	L	I	E			T	H	O	U			
	D	E	P	E	N	D			O	T	I	S			
M	O	D	E	S	T			S	T	Y	L	E			

SUDOKU EASY

6	8	4	3	9	1	5	2	7
5	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	1
1	9	7	8	2	5	6	4	3
9	5	6	1	8	3	4	7	2
8	4	1	2	7	9	3	6	5
7	3	2	5	4	6	1	8	9
3	7	8	9	5	4	2	1	6
2	1	9	6	3	8	7	5	4
4	6	5	7	1	2	9	3	8

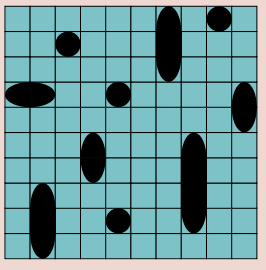
SUDOKU MEDIUM

9	5	3	7	8	2	6	1	4
1	2	8	4	3	6	5	9	7
7	6	4	5	1	9	3	8	2
2	7	6	9	4	3	1	5	8
4	8	9	2	5	1	7	6	3
3	1	5	6	7	8	4	2	9
6	9	1	3	2	7	8	4	5
8	4	7	1	9	5	2	3	6
5	3	2	8	6	4	9	7	1

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

2	9	1	3	6	8	4	7	5
6	3	5	2	7	4	8	9	1
8	4	7	5	9	1	3	2	6
1	6	2	7	3	9	5	8	4
5	8	4	1	2	6	7	3	9
9	7	3	4	8	5	1	6	2
4	2	9	8	1	3	6	5	7
3	1	6	9	5	7	2	4	8
7	5	8	6	4	2	9	1	3

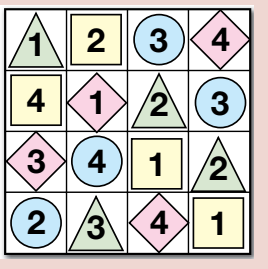
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	3	1	9	■	■	4	1
■	■	1	2	3	8	■	6	2
■	1	5	■	■	2	1	3	■
■	2	6	■	■	9	2	8	1
■	4	7	2	1	■	■	9	3
■	■	8	1	3	■	■	1	2
■	2	4	■	2	1	3	5	■
■	1	2	■	■	3	9	7	■

KEIJO



SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Therefore, **7** Exotic, **9** Uranium, **10** Roof, **12** Ail, **13** Soothed, **14** Sty, **15** Tern, **17** Ignored, **19** Select, **20** Protector.
Down: 1 Tourists, **2** Hero, **3** Era, **4** Existence, **5** Fought, **6** Rigid, **8** Calendar, **11** Forget, **13** Steer, **16** Redo, **18** Rot.

TARGET

BEATIFIED
abide, aide, bade, baited, bated, bead, BEATIFIED, betide, bide, bidet, bifid, daft, daftie, date, deaf, debate, debit, debt, defat, defeat, deft, diet, edit, fade, fated, feed, feted, fetid, idea, teed, tide, tied

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 22, 26, 31, 35, 36, 39.
Across: Utter, Poverty, Pay, Vendor, Exam, Leaks, Highjacks, Anaerobic, Kings, Dabs, Infamy, Wax, Barrows, Dusty.
Down: Lizard, Trade, Aqua, Aria, Easier, Ravisher, Pining, Bylaws, Jockeyed, Eureka, Chin, Tuba, Graft, Mushes.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: NIGHT
Down: WATCH

SUMMIT UP

94 and 89

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Tomorrow, Ascend, Litany, Phantom, Media, Clot, Yak, Ail, Bean, Gulch, Tonight, Liquid, Clever, Dishevel.
Down: Monastic, Oxide, Younger, Ransack, Hard, Project, Wash, Anguish, Zestful, Crime, Diminish (clue).

WORD BUILDER

Oaf, Foal, Flora, Formal, Molar, Oral, Oar

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Also, **3** Whipping, **8** Lull, **9** Assassin, **11** Accomplished, **13** Cuddle, **14** Carpet, **17** Second to none, **20** Agitated, **21** Fort, **22** Disperse, **23** Mend.
Down: 1 Alliance, **2** Spliced, **4** Hustle, **5** Plays havoc, **6** Issue, **7** Gang, **10** Ameliorate, **12** Attested, **15** Propose, **16** Adders, **18** Exits, **19** Raid.

QUIZWORD

Across: 1 Campo Grande, **9** Auk, **10** Derringer, **11** Tabla, **13** Hussain, **14** Red fir, **16** Hot dog, **18** Closers, **19** Léger, **20** The Devil's, **21** Lur, **22** Alternative.
Down: 2 Ark, **3** Padua, **4** Gurkha, **5** Ariosto, **6** Dog Eat Dog, **7** Walter Scott, **8** Bruno Girard, **12** Bud Powell, **15** Ile de Ré, **17** Ossian, **19** Liszt, **21** Lev.

Puzzles

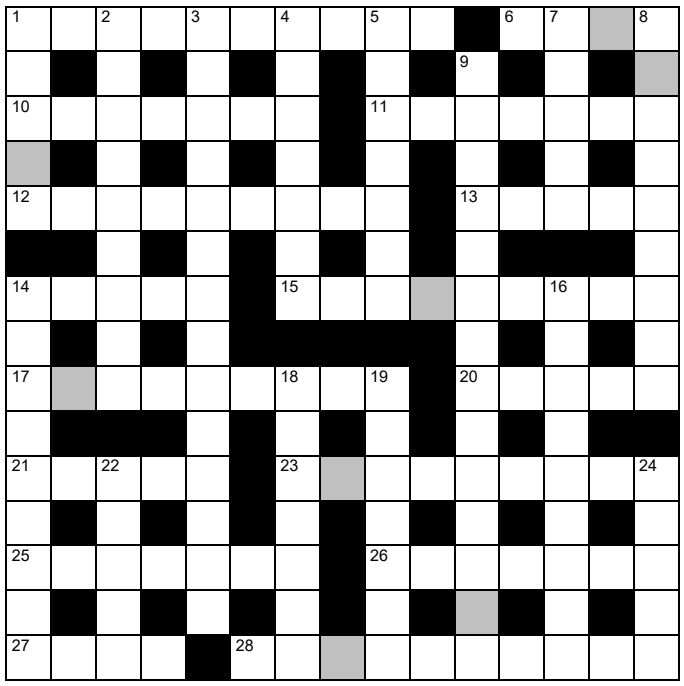
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Delay hit Estonia badly (10)
6 Foundation losing fourth singer (4)
10 Bird provides decoration (7)
11 Total obliteration of a 1980s pop act (7)
12 Idiot has a hangover (9)
13 Vote during the lecture (5)
14 Composer's ecstasy (5)
15 Be suspicious, like a pest controller? (5,1,3)
17 Fellow allows posh characters in strip clubs (9)
20 Tender aristocrat loses head to former queen (5)
21 Discover a barely discernible amount (5)
23 Yearning for gear change in different sense (9)
25 Influence I am putting on reporters (7)
26 Confusing, splashing about, topless (7)
27 Insect of biting nature (4)
28 Sugar substitutes are persuasive (10)

DOWN

1 Costume custom (5)
2 Thoughtful feeling about it at four (9)
3 Very close to being stupid, like criminals (5,2,7)
4 Female to lock soldier back inside (7)
5 Finished, expected to be late (7)
7 Entertain a source of inspiration (5)
8 Protects a distressed onlooker (9)
9 Drink to convenience and connection to a landmark (8,6)
14 Suitable keys to accessory (9)
16 Pronoun used in immediate response (9)
18 Was responsible for six deliveries – was wrong (7)
19 Indicators showing wise man holding gin cocktail (7)
22 Brightest star in terminal phase (5)
24 Sounds disappointed at dimensions in report (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 16, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 17 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Deposit, 5 Blender, 9 Analgesia, 10 Crawl, 11 Overage, 12 Sultana, 13 Mother-of-pearl, 18 Antihistamine, 20 Impetus, 23 Grapnel, 25 Cuppa, 26 Untrained, 27 Perused, 28 Nemesis. **DOWN:** 1 Dragon, 2 Prayer mat, 3 Sigma, 4 Tasteless, 5 Brass, 6 Eucalypti, 7 Drama, 8 Reliable, 14 Tahitians, 15 Orangutan, 16 Apennines, 17 Davis Cup, 19 Blades, 21 Paper, 22 Sound, 24 Alarm. **Prizeword:** Origami

TARGET

T	T	A
E	P	T
E	O	N

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

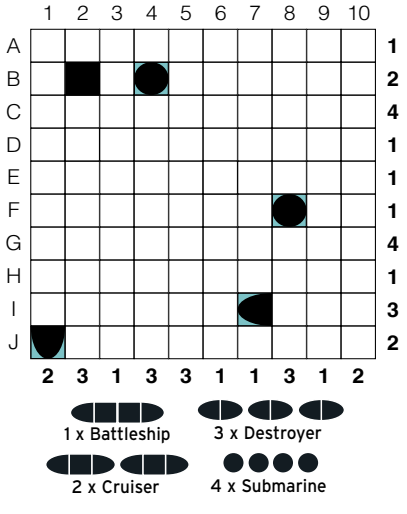
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 13; **very good** 20; **excellent** 26 **(or more).** Solution on Monday

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution on Monday



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 38 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution on Monday

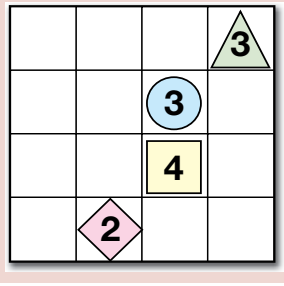
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A	11	31	26	16	3	31	28	26	1	9	35	23	37
B	12	1	15	12	10	14	17	19	3	4	25	6	14
C													
D	28	35	22	23	34	30	4	13	29	21	27	31	10
E													
F	13	4	33	7	32	19	25	27	38	7	4	18	23
G													
H	29	40	15	18	15	16	4	3	5	22	28	5	22
I													
J	3	4	16	31	28	31	27	7	1	31	3	7	40
K													
L	8	33	5	18	1	2	8	25	15	40	24	38	5
M													
N	11	7	3	7	14	4	35	7	39	18	12	38	3
O													
P	35	10	9	37	27	36	12	39	29	30	32	12	32
Q													
R	23	16	12	21	7	24	20	37	8	28	7	38	13
S													
T	14	4	24	7	37	6	16	4	6	31	10	8	30
U													
V	8	9	12	38	6	29	38	19	22	3	24	19	28
W													
X	15	6	32	36	5	13	7	20	12	17	31	28	26
Y													
Z													

1	2 J	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 W	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 H	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 ■	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32 ■	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution on Monday

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution on Monday

DIFFICULTY: 10/10; **TARGET:** 30 mins; **CLUE:** Trimming made for sharing.

A	■	2	■	9	■	20	■	26	■	■	■	1	■
B	■	23	13	5	3	21	12	20	■	12	3	4	23
C	■	24	■	4	■	25	■	2	■	2	■	21	■
D	12	21	10	2	■	13	13	5	8	6	13	5	22
E	■	12	■	■	■	26	■	4	■	2	■	2	■
F	2	17	11	13	5	22	■	11	13	3	21	12	20
G	■	■	■	5	■	■	■	■	■	9	■	■	■
H	14	5	13	17	2	12	■	13	12	7	18	4	17
I	■	24	■	24	■	13	■	18	■	■	■	3	■
J	13	4	9	4	17	3	13	18	■	14	18	21	9
K	■	12	■	5	■	21	■	24	■	5	■	12	■
L	6	2	5	7	■	9	24	15	5	24	16	2	■
M	■	8	■	■	■	7	■	12	■	23	■	19	■
N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
P	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Q	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
U	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
V	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
W	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
X	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Y	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Z	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Z	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17 M	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

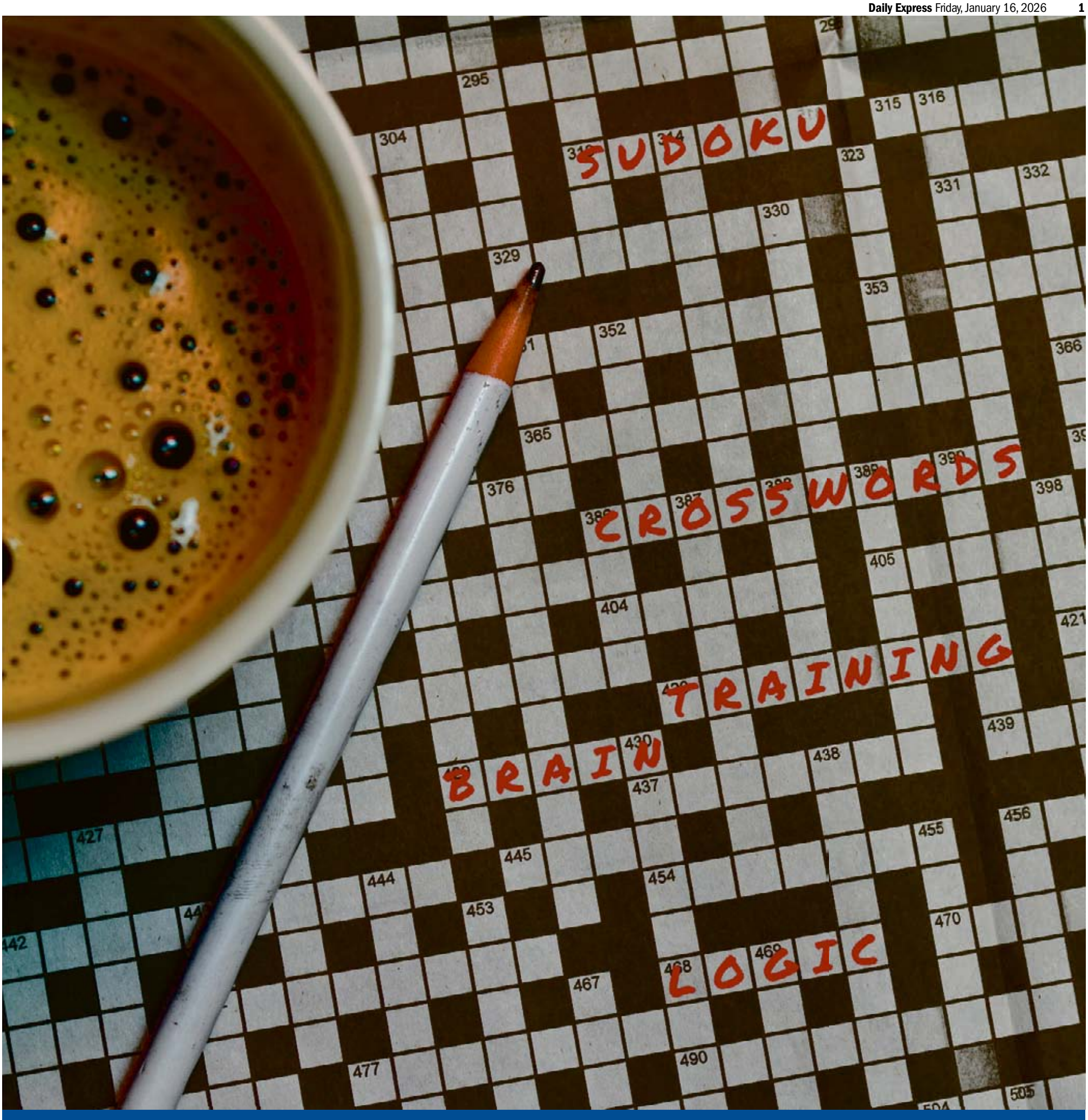
Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

Alphapuzzle® ©2025 Acorn Editorial Ltd. All words appear in Chambers Dictionary.

THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 6; INTERMEDIATE = 55; ADVANCED = 81.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES



PUZZLES SPECIAL

8 PAGES OF TANTALISING TEASERS!

PUZZLES

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the listed iems in the grid? Words may read forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

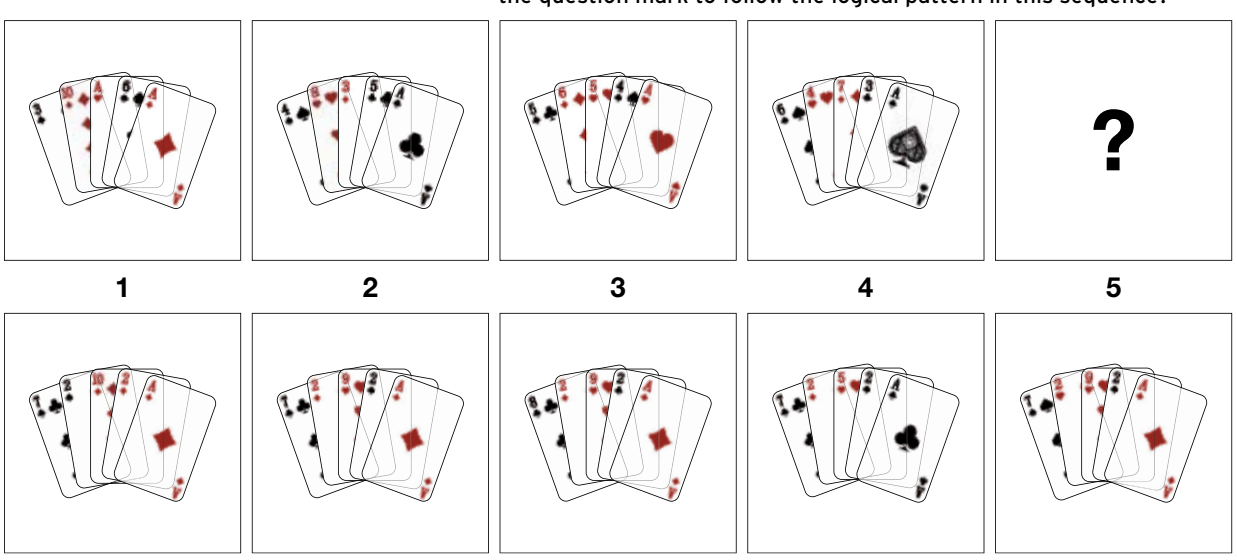
FICTIONAL DETECTIVES

S T R I K E P I E Y B Z I U Y G C E K
F B F R O S T O B Y C C C I U U S T X
L W U F R A Z R I E L U T H E R R N T
E C U Q J V H C K R R W F A O A H B H
T O S T A N H O P E O T T M G H H A Q
C L O U S E A U N R L T H G G E O R O
H U Z B C V J C N X P X A A R P L N I
E M S V D H K R R U G T I M U X M A S
R B P V T P T N N E J A Z A V D E B R
A O A M A R L O W E E L A I Z U S Y Z
X R D S A J L E W I S K I G U N X P A
O G E N T L Y T K X G M A R P L E Y M
F X S B E N N O R É N R V E L R E B A
O O I P U C S B Y G C S B T B N J D G
I Y Y P E S G P R C B F V V G Y E U N
V C H L G F L E M I N G N A V F E P U
W H B R E B E R G E R A C Z X S E I M
V K F R F W A L L A N D E R L D G N V
X U F T E N N I S O N K Y B Y X G I P

BARNABY
BERGERAC
BERTHAUD
CAGNEY
CLOUSEAU
COLUMBO
CREEK
DUPIN
FLEMING
FLETCHER
FOYLE
FROST
GENTLY
HOLMES
LEWIS
LUTHER
MAGNUM
MAIGRET
MARLOWE
MARPLE
MORSE
NORÉN
POIROT
REBUS
SPADE
STANHOPE
STRIKE
TAGGART
TENNISON
WALLANDER

PATTERN MAKER

Which one of the numbered squares on the bottom row should replace the question mark to follow the logical pattern in this sequence?



CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter. Use your knowledge of words to solve the puzzle. Two letters are given to start you off.

■	15	■	26	■	6	■	■	20	■	13	■	■
4	13	16	7	■	13	19	20	25	10	19	■	15
■	20	■	14	25	5	■	■	6	■	6	25	25 O
■	16	■	25	■	16	1	23	8	■	24	■	5 X
15	7	25	11	1	■	16	■	■	■	■	■	26
■	16	■	■	13	19	2	10	20	26	1	6	24
■	13	■	■	20	■	8	■	25	■	■	19	■
18	19	26	12	26	1	6	26	9	■	■	26	■
10	■	■	■	■	■	7	■	26	22	10	13	7
24	■	9	■	21	26	3	24	■	10	■	24	■
24	21	16	■	1	■	■	6	25	26	■	10	■
3	■	24	1	26	26	17	26	■	26	13	19	24
■	■	21	■	11	■	■	11	■	1	■	26	■

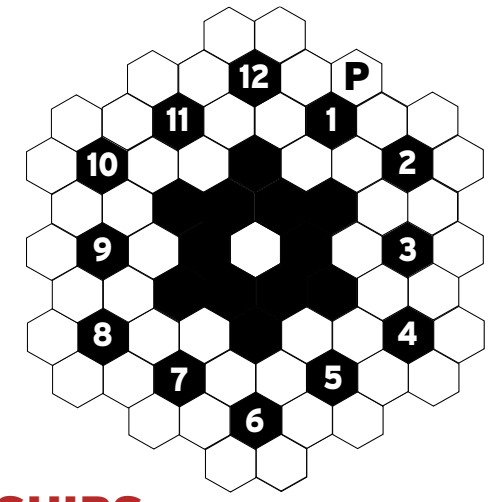
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5 X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 O	26

HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1 Mimic
2 Roamed
3 Lower
4 Antenna
5 Alighted
6 Twice
7 Keg
8 Plaster
9 Hang
10 Calling
11 Imprison
12 Creep



BATTLESHIPS

In Battleships, you have to find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the ten by ten grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

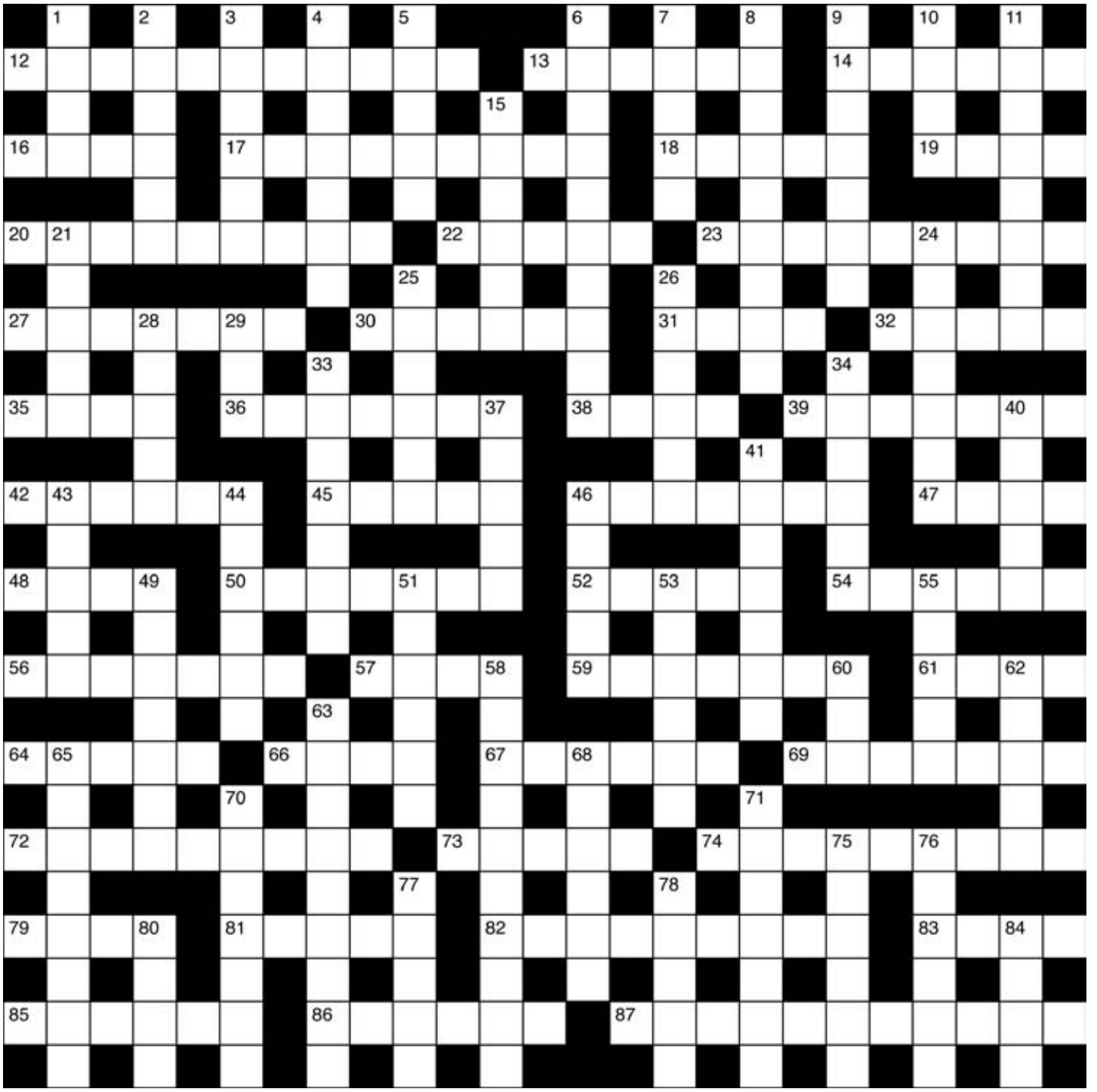
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A											1
B		●									2
C							◗				3
D				◗							2
E											1
F											1
G											4
H											2
I											2
J								◗			2
	1	2	2	2	1	5	1	1	5	0	

GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Choose between straight and cryptic clues in this giant crossword – both sets lead to the same answers.



STRAIGHT

ACROSS

12 Got on with (4,7)
13 Female name (6)
14 Impression (6)
16 Unexciting (4)
17 Daubed (9)
18 Money (5)
19 Solicit (4)
20 Formal (9)
22 Fruit (5)
23 Garment (5,4)
27 Get rid of (7)
30 Design (6)
31 Yank (4)
32 Purchaser (5)
35 Now (4)
36 Bigger (7)
38 Trip (4)
39 Fibrous (7)
42 Substance (6)
45 Best (5)
46 Paler (7)
47 Time (4)
48 Male name (4)
50 Cargo (7)
52 Frolic (5)
54 Spats (6)
56 Minutiae (7)
57 Search (4)
59 Gulp (7)
61 Patient (4)
64 Uttered (5)
66 Sling (4)
67 Basket (6)
69 Swept (7)
72 Help (4,1,4)
73 Scoundrel (5)
74 Leaving (9)
79 Report (4)
81 Doomed (5)
82 Easily (5,4)
83 Opening (4)
85 Next to (6)
86 East (6)
87 I've no idea (6,5)

DOWN

1 Lofty (4)
2 Be furious (6)
3 Stand (6)
4 Stays (7)
5 Female name (5)
6 Rookie (10)
7 Picture (5)
8 Composition (9)
9 Quiet (7)
10 Modicum (4)
11 Right (8)
15 Stop (6)
21 Sound (5)
24 Warning (7)
25 Shake (6)
26 Jumped (6)
28 Do (5)
29 Kid (3)
33 Attains (7)
34 Gazes (6)
37 Send (5)
40 **Bunch (5)**
41 Alarm (7)
43 Consent (5)
44 Disconcert (6)
46 Ties up (5)
49 Broken (7)
51 Cavern (6)
53 Recognised (6)
55 Shakes (5)
58 Late (10)
60 Strife (3)
62 Bullock (5)
63 Blast! (9)
65 Ready (8)
68 Emotional (6)
70 Budged (7)
71 Determination (7)
75 Shade (6)
76 Recording (6)
77 Confess (5)
78 Tree (5)
80 Rivet (4)
84 Ranks (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

12 Got on with, when one produced a TV sitcom (4,7)
13 She's out of breath (6)
14 The article about breaking camp will make an impression (6)
16 Overweight, about fifty and unexciting (4)
17 Wearing a cast that had been daubed on (9)
18 Caught through the bait of money (5)
19 "Solicit" with the T missing (4)
20 Stiff, is straightening out (9)
22 Fruit from a town in NW England, you say (5)
23 Wear for the man in drag? (5,4)
27 Did move the cars inside, to get rid of (7)
30 Picture you take with you everywhere (6)
31 Yank with influence (4)
32 Person to whom you sold the said shed (5)
35 At this point the top comes off again (4)
36 Bigger and better (7)
38 Until half an hour after the trip (4)
39 Mean right through its fibrous (7)
42 The material does make a difference (6)
45 Best of all the cosmetics? (5)
46 Paler and thinner (7)
47 The time ahead of one (4)
48 He's taking a man round – American (4)
50 Squabble about entering as "cargo" (7)
52 As a precaution, throwing out half the sauce (5)
54 Gets rid of the spats (6)
56 Assigns one to the minutiae (7)
57 Search everywhere, honey (4)
59 Gulp but grin and bear it (7)
61 Patient survey (4)
64 Uttered the word "Bar" (5)
66 Sling that will help a broken arm heal (4)
67 Am quietly going through her basket (6)
69 Rubs out "He had hardly touched" (7)
72 And he flies into the country to give assistance (4,1,4)
73 Not the ace villain (5)
74 Leaving for something new (9)
79 Thrill derived from the report (4)
81 Daft nonsense about the East being doomed (5)
82 How easily the clock will show you it's 6.30 (5,4)
83 Run out, you say, from a little hole (4)
85 Next to be joining the team (6)
86 A band interconnected with the East (6)
87 I've no idea, but the angels are aware (6,5)

DOWN

1 A lofty "That's rather far-fetched" (4)
2 Understand most of them are furious (6)
3 Stand or fall? Do stand (6)
4 Stays while the mares romp about in (7)
5 I'd gone back into the melee with her (5)
6 Why the novice is limping? (10)
7 Snap "Quiet!" (5)
8 A nude girl enters to music (9)
9 Whatever you said, you broke it! (7)
10 Tops up just a little (4)
11 Quite right. It's a c-clergyman (8)
15 Bust, stop (6)
21 Sound one out when one's come in (5)
24 A card giving a warning (7)
25 A headless "41" wandering about does frighten (6) RATTLE
26 Having resilience when it was jumped on (6)
28 Do cover the point in the talk (5)
29 It's only a piece of cloth, kid (3)
33 Gets to "He foolishly cares about" (7)
34 Are to be seen in the streets, if one looks (6)
37 Send the boy back to again (5)
40 Panel doctor who admits our indisposed (5)
41 Open and some of the letters surprise you (7)
43 Mature about, again undertake to (5)
44 Gathers it will prove disconcerting (6)
46 Ties up the large ones (5)
49 Damaged bats (7)
51 Got worried about the decay in the cavern (6)
53 Among the first three to be recognised? (6)
55 Shakes, with ice (5)
58 After a member of the staff is late (10)
60 A rookie retreating from the battle (3)
62 A lead for the animal (5)
63 Blast! Mother has got into an awful mess! (9)
65 Ready trimmed, the material is brought in (8)
68 Leaving one's home is heartrending (6)
70 Having moved, she had a fit about the interior! (7)
71 With determination, work it out again (7)
75 A shade wan, mixing a gin cocktail (6)
76 Fix a label on the outside saying "Recording" (6)
77 Confess to being driven mad by the thing (5)
78 It wobbles when you write (5)
80 Rivet from the bag (4)
84 Fights in the ranks (4)

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9

EASY

	4			9	8	1		
3			1	4	7			
		7				9		8
	8		7		5		6	1
2	7						8	5
6	3		8		4		9	
8		3				5		
			2	5	9			7
		9	3	8			2	

HARD

		7			8		1	
						7	2	8
5				6			4	
			2		1			3
		1				4		
8			7		4			
	9			1				6
1	8	6						
	5		4			1		

DOUBLE JIGWORD

Arrange these crossword fragments to create two completed symmetrical crosswords.

A	W	E	■	F	■	E	A	T	■	A	■	C	U	T	■	S	W	R	T	F	L	O	G
U	■	P	E	F	A	■	U	■	E	■	U	A	■	E	C	■	A	■	Y	■	I	■	E
D	L	E	■	I	■	E	R	V	■	S	■	B	U	S	O	B	S	R	E	A	M	A	N

O	U	S	P	■	E	C	■	C	A	N	E	M	■	■	I	C	■	A	L	L	E	R	S
U	■	P	■	P	R	T	A	H	■	C	■	P	■	C	■	H	■	P	■	S	X	■	A
S	T	Y	S	■	A	■	■	E	■	H	A	O	■	L	H	A	N	T	S	■	A	N	T

A	■	E	S	H	O																		
C	E	■	E	■	U																		
I	■	E	R	E	T																		

ARROW WORD

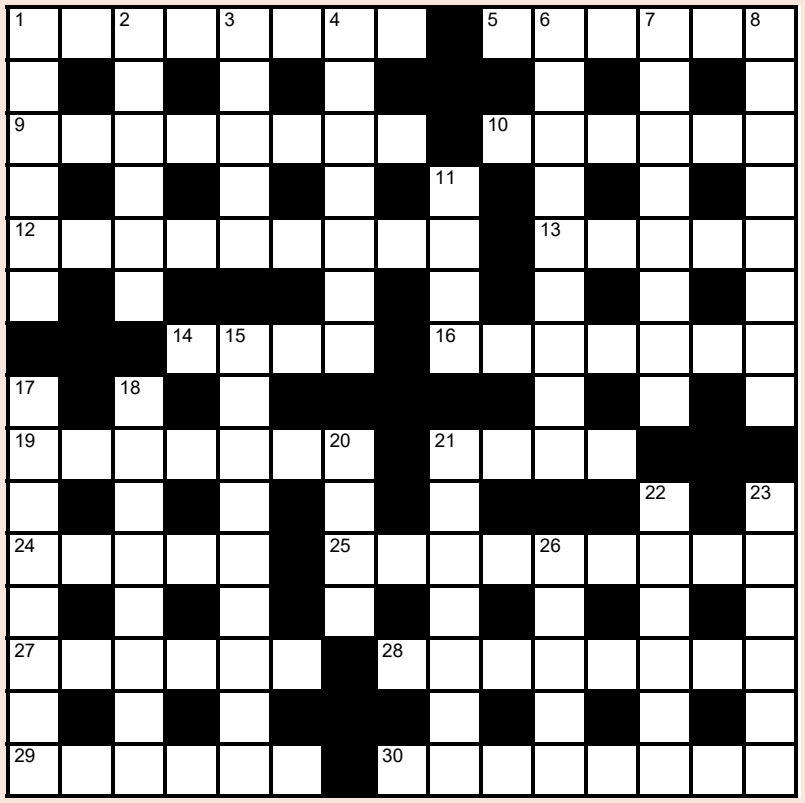
The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.

Trance / Sun hat			Musical item			E.g. sage, mint / Saunter			Stern			Guerilla leader, _ Guevara			Cat's noise			Islamic holy city			Chicken			Comedy sketch		
▶						▼						Indoor chores / Spire	▶													
Soft cheese			Paddle / Parent	▶					Employ / Biblical priest	▶		▼			Signal fire			Swiss peak			Sword			Got paid		
▶			▼						▼				Bangle	▶	▼			▼			▼			▼		
E.g. the moon	Perched on			Gaelic			Slender			Watch / Golf pegs	▶					Circuit / Brake plate	▶					The Princess Royal			Legal codes
▶	▼			▼			▼			▼			Snake	▶		▼			Noble rank / Stitch	▶			▼			▼
Trio / Enemies	▶								Long span of years	▶								Ayrton _, racing driver	▶							
▶					Biblical murder victim	▶							Seep	▶							Fresh	▶				
Clean feathers	▶								Parisian river	▶								Sifts out	▶							

PUZZLES

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Test your grasp of the facts with this general knowledge challenge.



ACROSS

1 1885 novel by Émile Zola (8)
5 Person confined in an institution like a prison (6)
9 TV Chaser Mark Labbett's nickname (3,5)
10 ___ and Cleopatra, Shakespeare play (6)
12 Dance originating in Brazil (5,4)
13 Nigel Slater autobiography subtitled The Story of a Boy's Hunger (5)
14 Predatory gull-like bird such as the arctic ___ (4)
16 Mollusc of New Zealand from which a greenish soup is made (7)
19 Capital and chief port of Thailand (7)
21 Argonaut in Greek mythology; husband of Marpessa (4)
24 Father of Hermia in the William Shakespeare play A Midsummer Night's Dream (5)
25 2015 novel by Alex Hourston (2,2,5)
27 Sixth-century BC Greek lyric poetess of Lesbos (6)
28 Title character of a 1852 work by Harriet Beecher Stowe (5,3)
29 A member of a Hellenic people who invaded Greece around 1100 BC (6)
30 Family servant of long standing (8)

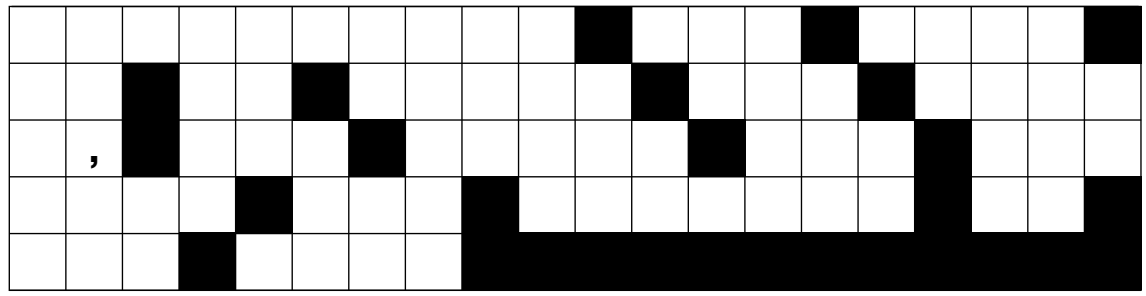
DOWN

1 The Great ___, novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald (6)
2 Municipality in Limburg, Belgium; site of the Battle of Lauffeld in 1747 (6)
3 City in Osaka Prefecture, Japan; headquarters of car manufacturer Daihatsu (5)
4 New style of musical composition in 14th-century France and the Burgundian Netherlands (3,4)
6 1939 romcom starring Greta Garbo in the title role (9)
7 Amedeo ___, Italian molecular theorist (8)
8 Omar Sharif's nationality (8)
11 Immanuel ___, German philosopher (4)
15 Oskar ___, Austrian expressionist painter whose works include 1942's Marianne-Maquis (9)
17 2009 film drama starring Idris Elba and Beyoncé Knowles (8)
18 A birdie or eagle in golf would be so termed (5,3)
20 Andrew ___, actor who played the title role in 1967 sci-fi film Quatermass and the Pit (4)
21 Huge (7)
22 Hal ___, winner of the 1983 US PGA Championship (6)
23 Brazilian footballer who plays at Paris Saint-Germain (6)
26 Board game which takes its name from the Greek word for leap (5)

QUOTE DOWN

Drop the letters in each column to reconstruct a quote by Jeremy Bentham. Words may be split across two lines.

G	E	R	E	F	C	E	E	A	C	E	H	I	E	A	H	A	A	R
H	I	S	S	O	E	H	E	F	F	H	N	T	H	E	N	F	D	R
S	P	T	T	O	O	R	I	N	G	L	O	W	M	R	S	N	O	
S	T		T	T	T		O		T				S			T	T	
U							T											



LOGIC

Can you work out which drinks and snacks to buy?

Halfway to the vending machines, Fiona realised she had left the drinks and snacks order for her colleagues on her desk. Being the new girl in the office, she didn't want to embarrass herself by returning empty-handed, so she stopped by the reception area and jotted down a few notes.

Each of her colleagues had given her the correct change, and each wanted a different drink and a different snack. She remembered that Jack and Jane had given the same combined amount as had Jenny and John, and that John had spent more than Jack.

The man who had ordered the tea and crisps had given £1.25 more than the person who requested mints and orange juice, and the woman who wanted the cookie gave Fiona £2.65 in total.

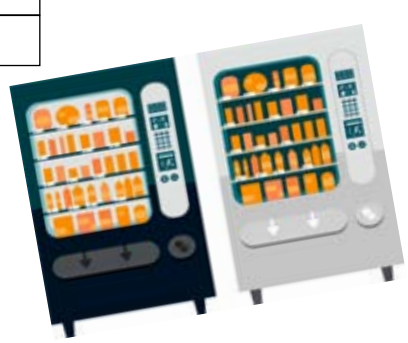
On the reception desk, Dora confirmed that Jenny never drank anything but cola from the machine.

Finally, Fiona recalled that £4.50 was given, in part, towards a coffee, and that the hot chocolate drinker did not want a sandwich.

Fiona considered all these points and after ten minutes or so smiled brightly. She was sure she had worked out all the details of the order and could successfully complete the task.

Can you work out who ordered which combination of drink and snack?

	Coffee	Cola	Hot Chocolate	Orange juice	Tea	Crisps	Cookie	Mints	Sandwich	Scone	£4.50	£4.00	£3.90	£2.75	£2.65
Jack															
Jane															
Jenny															
Jim															
John															
£4.50															
£4.00															
£3.90															
£2.75															
£2.65															
Crisps															
Cookie															
Mints															
Sandwich															
Scone															



BRAIN TRAINING

"We are now connected by the internet, like neutrons in a giant brain" Stephen Hawking

Give your brain a proper workout with this fine selection of mini puzzles, designed to stimulate those little grey cells in five key areas – Words, Visualisation, Numbers, Memory and Logic.

WORDS

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word in the ladder. There may be more than one solution.

VAIN

STOP

ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each of the phrases below to reveal the names of five trees.

OWED ROD

MAY SCORE

AM NO HERB

SOUR FIG, LAD

CUTEST NHS HERO

WORD SLIDE

How many regular English words can be spelled out using all the sliders? One word is spelled already. Target score: 14

	O		E	
A	N	V	Y	C
V	I	T	A	L
H	T	N	I	D
I		G		R

NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1	7	3	1	5	2	4		

= an element

8	5	8	7	6	5	2	4	

= an element

4	5	6	9	

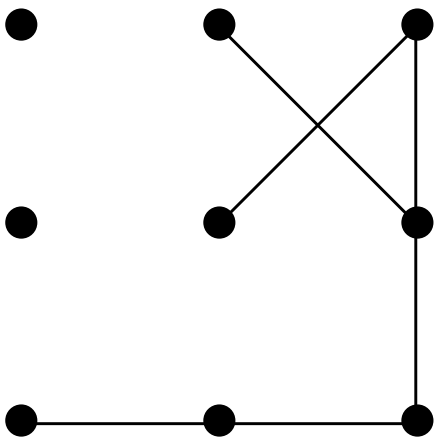
= a mineral source

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

VISUALISATION

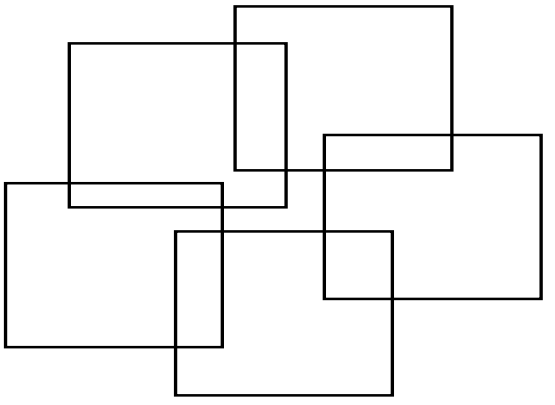
TRIANGLE

Draw **3** straight lines to make **6** triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot to dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Triangles must not contain lines running through them, and every line segment must form part of a triangle.



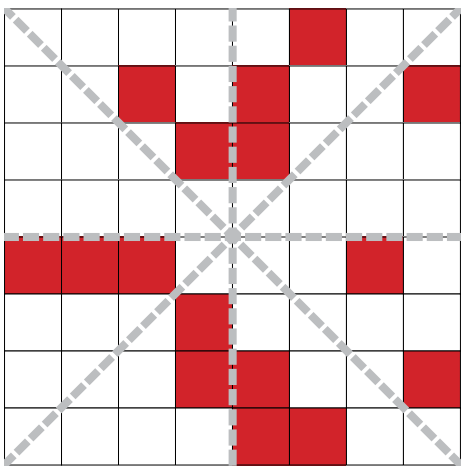
SHAPES

How many rectangles are there in the illustration below?



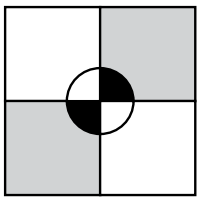
SYMMETRY

Shade in eight of the blank squares so that the pattern shows reflectional symmetry along one of the four axes shown.

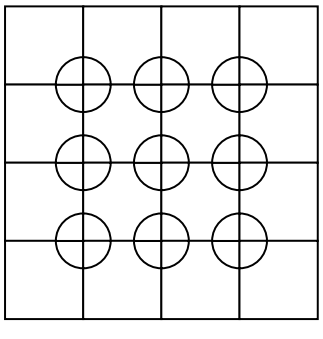


SEKI

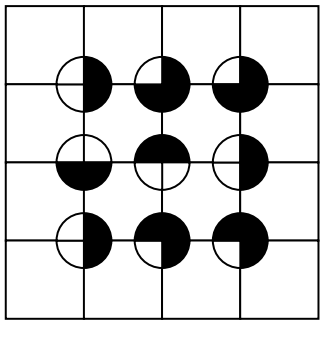
Using the blank grid, rotate some of the circles shown in the start grid and then shade in the corresponding squares (as shown right), so that shaded squares contain only black quarter-circles.



BLANK GRID

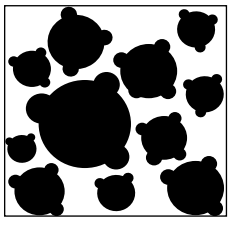


START GRID

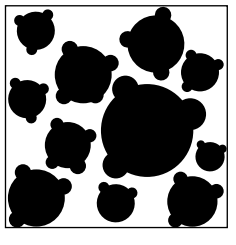


MIRROR IMAGE

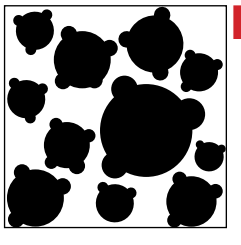
Which of the four images below is the mirror image of the one to the right?



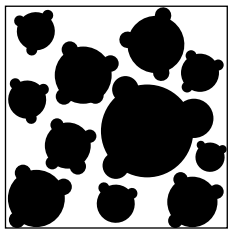
A



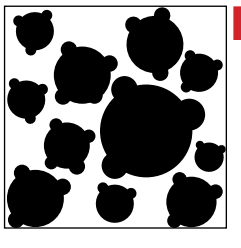
B



C



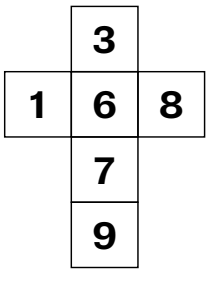
D



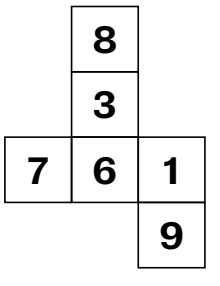
NETS

Which of these nets can be constructed to make a cube in which all opposite faces add up to an even number?

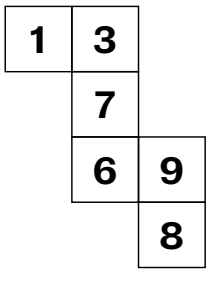
A



B



C



NUMBERS

SUMTHING

Place the listed numbers into the grid so that all sums are correct, reading left to right and top to bottom.

	×		=		
−	■	+	■	×	■
	×	7	=		
=	■	=	■	=	■
	×		=		

1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 8, 9, 9

NUMBER JIG

Which one of the listed numbers won't fit in this mini grid?

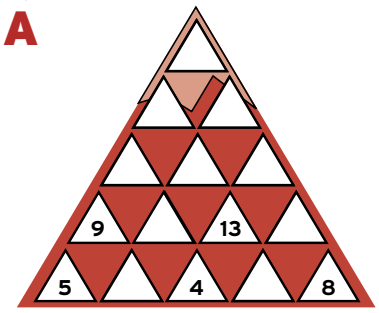
5997 7765
6956 9776
7559

	■		■
	7		
	■		■

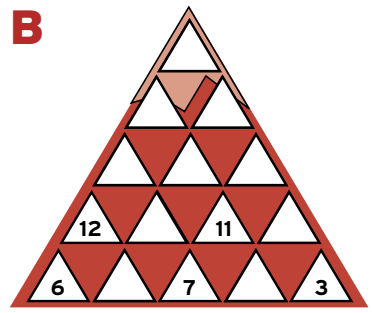
SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?

A



B



LOGIC

CELLS

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

						2
		6	2			5
			4	5		
			2		3	
	6				2	
			4	2		
2	2				2	

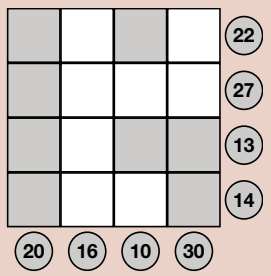
REASONING

1 At the bowling alley, everyone has been given the wrong shoes. 'These sandals are too big for me', said Kim. 'The shoes I'm wearing, which aren't the mules, are size 8', said Kat. 'I'm wearing Kat's shoes', said Kay. 'I've been given one size smaller than my normal size, which isn't size 6 or 9', said Kia. If Kay isn't wearing the flats and the heels are size 7, which shoes belong to each friend?

2 'Okay, who booked room 102?' asked the hotel receptionist. 'I've been given room 103, that's not what I booked!' yelled Max. 'I haven't been given room 104, I've been given Mel's room', huffed Meg. 'The room I booked wasn't given to Max, nor was it room 105', said Mia. 'I wasn't given room 104', said Mel. If no one was given the right room, and each person booked a different room, which room did each person book?

EVENS

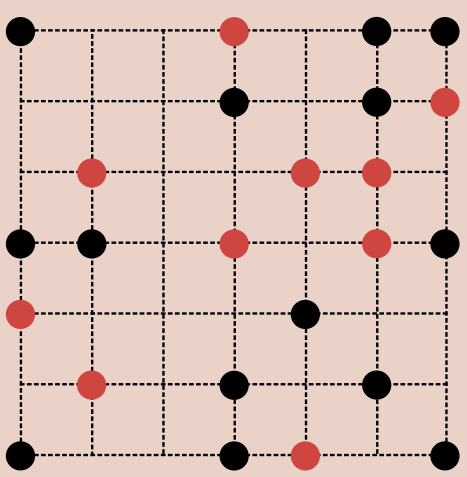
Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares, so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and even numbers must be placed in shaded squares.



DANGO

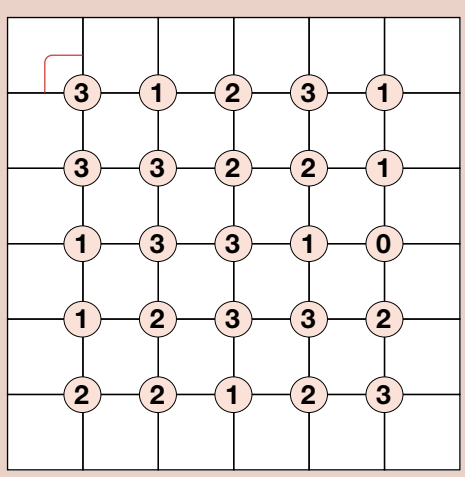
Draw lines between the dots to create four shapes in the grid. No shape may touch another and you must use all the dots. When a line reaches a dot, it turns as shown:

● 90° ● 45° or 135°



LOOP

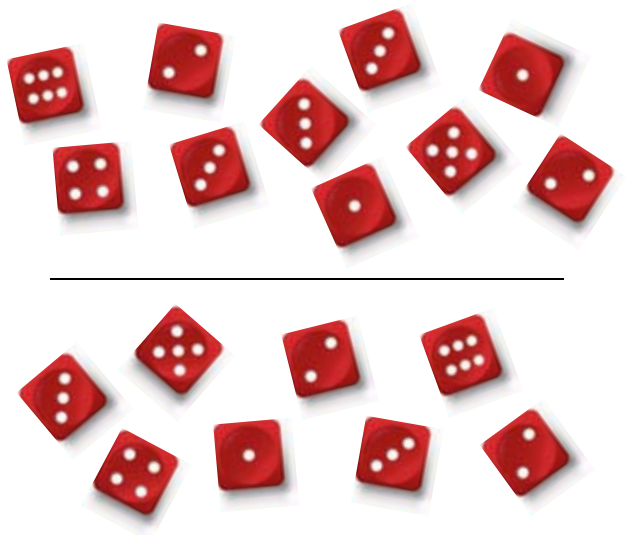
Draw a continuous loop in the grid so that the number in each circle corresponds to the number of adjacent squares containing turns in the loop. Part of the loop has been drawn to get you started.



MEMORY

DICE GAME

Cover the bottom group of dice, and look closely at the top group for ten seconds. Then cover the top group and show the bottom group. Which dice are missing?



LOST FOR WORDS

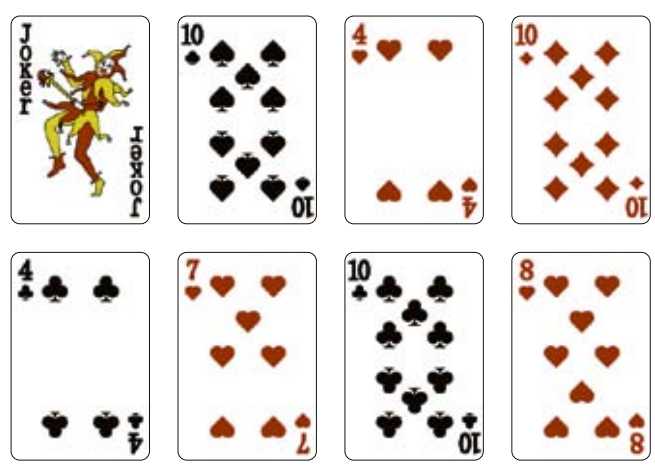
Cover the group of words on the right, then study the group on the left for two minutes. Then cover the group on the left and show the group on the right. Which words are missing?

CARRIER
CENTURY
CHECKMATE
CHOCOLATE
CLOCK
DUFFEL
ELECTORATE
FERRET
GAMBIT
KNIGHT
LAVENDER
MAHOGANY
MANIFESTO
ORCHID
PARTY
RUSSET
SKUNK
SPORTS
STOPWATCH
TAYRA
THISTLE

MANIFESTO
PARTY
CARRIER
RUSSET
DUFFEL
GAMBIT
ORCHID
TAYRA
STOPWATCH
CHOCOLATE
CHECKMATE
CENTURY
MAHOGANY
CLOCK
THISTLE
SPORTS
KNIGHT
ELECTORATE

CONCENTRATION

Study this set of playing cards for thirty seconds, then cover them up and answer the questions below.



1 How many fours are there? 2 Which card is directly below the ten of spades? 3 Of which suit is there a 8?

PUZZLES

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER

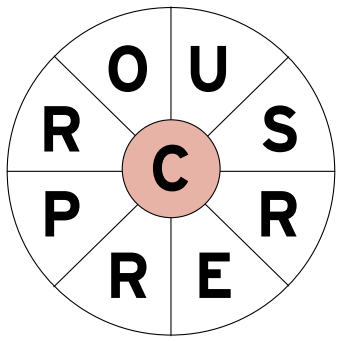
Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's puzzle. Advanced players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck!

BEGINNER 15	×4	-16	6/11 of this	+18	÷7	+56	50% of this	-17	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE 336	÷12	+196	Increase by 25%	-35	3/5 of this	+135	÷6	-29	ANSWER
ADVANCED 85	3/5 of this	+291	7/9 of this	-86	Increase by 70%	Reverse the digits	÷9	+429	ANSWER

WORD WHEEL

You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.

How you rate
20 average
30 good
40 very good
50 excellent



SOLUTIONS

CODEWORD
1=N, 2=G, 3=Y, 4=J, 5=X, 6=T, 7=L, 8=H, 9=D, 10=U, 11=W, 12=V, 13=A, 14=B, 15=F, 16=I, 17=Z, 18=P, 19=R, 20=M, 21=K, 22=Q, 23=C, 24=S, 25=O, 26=E

HONEYCOMB
1 Parrot. 2 Ranged. 3 Demean. 4 Aerial. 5 Landed. 6 Double. 7 Barrel. 8 Render. 9 Dangle. 10 Naming. 11 Intern. 12 Tiptoe.

PATTERN MAKER
SQUARE 2. From left to right: the first card alternates between black suits and the value increases by one each time; the second alternates between red suits and decreases by two each time; the third alternates between red suits and increases by two each time; the fourth alternates between black suits and decreases by one each time; the fifth is always an ace and cycles through all suits.

GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD
Across: 12 Made friends, 13 Bertha, 14 Impact, 16 Flat, 17 Plastered, 18 Lucre, 19 Tout, 20 Unbending, 22 Berry, 23 Frock coat, 27 Discard, 30 Tattoo, 31 Pull, 32 Buyer, 35 Here, 36 Greater, 38 Tour, 39 Stringy, 42 Matter, 45 Cream, 46 Lighter, 47 Noon, 48 Eric, 50 Freight, 52 Caper, 54 Scraps, 56 Details, 57 Comb, 59 Swallow, 61 Case, 64 Spoke, 66 Cast, 67 Hamper, 69 Brushed, 72 Lend a hand, 73 Knave, 74 Departure, 79 Bang, 81 Fated, 82 Hands down, 83 Pore, 85 Beside, 86 Orient, 87 Heaven knows.
Down: 1 Tall, 2 Seethe, 3 Tripod, 4 Remains, 5 Edith, 6 Tenderfoot, 7 Still, 8 Barcarole, 9 Silence, 10 Spot, 11 Accurate, 15 Arrest, 21 Noise, 24 Caution, 25 Rattle, 26 Sprung, 28 Cheat, 29 Rag, 33 Reaches, 34 Stares, 37 Remit, 40 Group, 41 Startle, 43 Agree, 44 Ruffle, 46 Laces, 49 Cracked, 51 Grotto, 53 Placed, 55 Rocks, 58 Behindhand, 60 War, 62 Steer, 63 Damnation, 65 Prepared, 68 Moving, 70 Shifted, 71 Resolve, 75 Awning, 76 Taping, 77 Admit, 78 Aspen, 80 Grip, 84 Rows.

GK CROSSWORD
Across: 1 Germinal, 5 Inmate, 9 The Beast, 10 Antony, 12 Bossa nova, 13 Toast, 14 Skua, 16 Toheroa, 19 Bangkok, 21 Idas, 24 Egeus, 25 In My House, 27 Sappho, 28 Uncle Tom, 29 Dorian, 30 Retainer.
Down: 1 Gatsby, 2 Riemst, 3 Ikeda, 4 Ars nova, 6 Ninotchka, 7 Avogadro, 8 Egyptian, 11 Kant, 15 Kokoschka, 17 Obsessed, 18 Under par, 20 Keir, 21 Immense, 22 Sutton, 23 Neymar, 26 Halma.

QUOTE DOWN
"Stretching his hand up to reach the stars, too often man forgets the flowers at his feet"

WORD LADDER
One possible answer is: Vain, Cain, Chin, Chip, Ship, Shop, Stop

ANAGRAMS
Redwood, Sycamore, Hornbeam, Douglas fir, Horse chestnut

WORD SLIDE
Angel, anger, anted, antic, anvil, attar, attic, hived, honed, hotel, hovel, hover, inner, inter, ionic, vigil, vinic, vinyl, vital, vivid, voted, voter

NINER CULMINATE

SHAPES 10

MIRROR IMAGE A

NETS B

SUMTHING
9x2=18, 5x7=35, 4x9=36

NUMBER JIG 6956

SUMMIT UP **A** 89 **B** 91

REASONING
1 Kat mules, Kim heels, Kay sandals, Kia flats. 2 Mia 102, Meg 103, Max 104, Mel 105.

EVENS
6547
8739
4126
2318

DICE GAME
One and three

LOST FOR WORDS
Ferret, Lavender, Skunk

CONCENTRATION
1: 2, 2: 7 of hearts, 3: Hearts

WORD WHEEL
cope, coper, copes, cops, copse, core, corer, cores, corps, corpse, corpus, corse, coup, coupe, course, courser, crop, crops, croup, croupe, cruse, cues, cups, cure, curer, cures, curse, curser, cursor, cusp, ecru, precursor, procure, procurer, procures, puce, recoup, recoups, recur, recurs, scope, score, scorer, scour, scourer, scup, source, spec, spruce, sprucer.

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER
Beginner 14, Intermediate 18, Advanced 496.

WORDSEARCH

S	T	R	I	K	E	P	I	E	Y	B	Z	I	U	Y	G	C	E	K
F	B	F	R	O	S	T	O	B	Y	C	C	C	I	U	U	S	T	X
L	W	U	F	R	A	Z	R	I	E	L	U	T	H	E	R	R	N	T
E	C	U	Q	J	V	H	C	K	R	R	W	F	A	O	A	H	B	H
T	O	S	T	A	N	H	O	P	E	O	T	T	M	G	H	H	A	Q
C	L	O	U	S	E	A	U	N	R	L	T	H	G	G	E	O	R	O
H	U	Z	B	C	V	J	C	N	X	P	X	A	A	R	P	L	N	I
E	M	S	V	D	H	K	R	R	U	G	T	I	M	U	X	M	A	S
R	B	P	V	T	P	T	N	N	E	J	A	Z	A	V	D	E	B	R
A	O	A	M	A	R	L	O	W	E	E	L	A	I	Z	U	S	Y	Z
X	R	D	S	A	J	L	E	W	I	S	K	I	G	U	N	X	P	A
O	G	E	N	T	L	Y	T	K	X	G	M	A	R	P	L	E	Y	M
F	X	S	B	E	N	N	O	R	É	N	R	V	E	L	R	E	B	A
O	O	I	P	U	C	S	B	Y	G	C	S	B	T	B	N	J	D	G
I	Y	Y	P	E	S	G	P	R	C	B	F	V	V	G	Y	E	U	N
V	C	H	L	G	F	L	E	M	I	N	G	N	A	V	F	E	P	U
W	H	B	R	E	B	E	R	G	E	R	A	C	Z	X	S	E	I	M
V	K	F	R	F	W	A	L	L	A	N	D	E	R	L	D	G	N	V
X	U	F	T	E	N	N	I	S	O	N	K	Y	B	Y	X	G	I	P

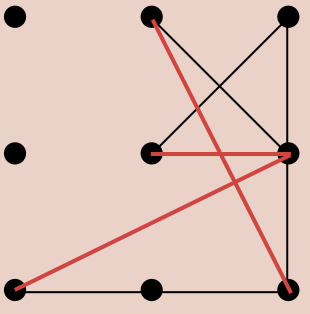
ARROWWORD

	C		O		H		D		C		P		M		F		S
S	O	M	B	R	E	R	O		H	O	U	S	E	W	O	R	K
	M		O	A	R		U	S	E		R		C		W		I
C	A	M	E	M	B	E	R	T		B	R	A	C	E	L	E	T
		O		B		L		E	Y	E		L	A	P		A	
S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E		A	S	P		E	A	R	L
	T	H	R	E	E		E	P	O	C	H		S	E	N	N	A
F	O	E	S		A	B	E	L		O	O	Z	E		N	E	W
	P	R	E	E	N		S	E	I	N	E		W	E	E	D	S

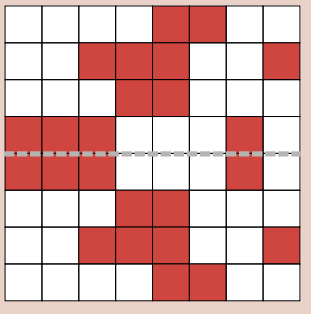
LOGIC

Name	Drink	Snack	Cost
Jack	Orange	Mints	£2.75
Jane	Hot Chocolate	Scone	£3.90
Jenny	Cola	Cookie	£2.65
Jim	Coffee	Sandwich	£4.50
John	Tea	Crisps	£4.00

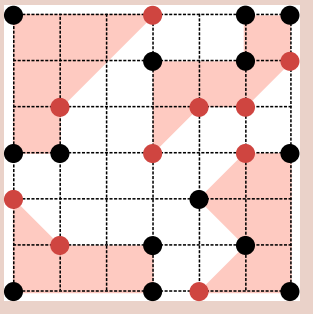
TRIANGLE



SYMMETRY



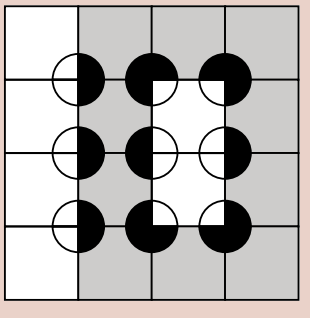
DANGO



SUDOKU EASY

5	4	2	6	9	8	1	7	3
3	9	8	1	4	7	2	5	6
1	6	7	5	3	2	9	4	8
9	8	4	7	2	5	3	6	1
2	7	1	9	6	3	4	8	5
6	3	5	8	1	4	7	9	2
8	2	3	4	7	6	5	1	9
4	1	6	2	5	9	8	3	7
7	5	9	3	8	1	6	2	4

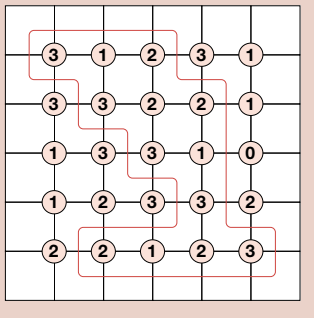
SEKI



CELLS

						2
		6	2			5
			4	5		
			2		3	
	6				2	
			4	2		
2	2				2	

LOOP



SUDOKU HARD

3	4	7	9	2	8	6	1	5
6	1	9	3	4	5	7	2	8
5	2	8	1	6	7	3	4	9
9	7	4	2	5	1	8	6	3
2	3	1	6	8	9	4	5	7
8	6	5	7	3	4	2	9	1
4	9	2	8	1	3	5	7	6
1	8	6	5	7	2	9	3	4
7	5	3	4	9	6	1	8	2

DOUBLE JIGWORD A

■	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	S
C	■	A	■	U	■	X	■	A
O	B	S	E	R	V	A	N	T
M	■	■	■	A	■	C	■	C
P	U	C	E	■	U	T	A	H
O	■	L	■	S	■	■	■	E
S	H	O	R	T	F	A	L	L
E	■	U	■	Y	■	P	■	S
R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	■

DOUBLE JIGWORD B

L	O	G	I	C	■	A	W	E
I	■	E	■	H	■	U	■	P
M	A	N	H	A	N	D	L	E
P	■	E	■	F	■	A	■	E
■	P	R	E	F	A	C	E	■
S	■	A	■	I	■	I	■	E
C	U	T	A	N	E	O	U	S
A	■	E	■	C	■	U	■	P
B	U	S	■	H	A	S	T	Y

BATTLESHIPS